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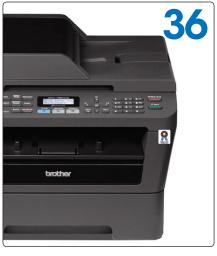
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On Our Cover: Featured on this month's cover is the Sony Bloggie Duo MHS-FS2 (\$169.99; www.sony.com), Sony VAIO L Series All-In-One Touchscreen PC (pricing starts at \$1,199.99), and Brother MFC-7860DW Laser All-In-One with Wireless Networking and Duplex Printing (\$299.99; www.brother-usa.com).









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# First Glimpse

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# FirstGlimpse

# The Connected Home

# Discover New Possibilities With Today's Technology

TODAY A WIDE VARIETY of digital devices and technologies work together to make all kinds of information available whenever and wherever you need it. Stream movies to your home theater; download photos from a relative overseas to a photo frame in your living room; or upload music from your MP3 player to your car. Whatever you want to do, there's a product out there to help you do it. Use this digital home blueprint to identify the types of things you want to do, and then go to the appropriate pages to learn about related products and technologies.

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# ce news

COMPILED BY ANDREW LEIBMAN



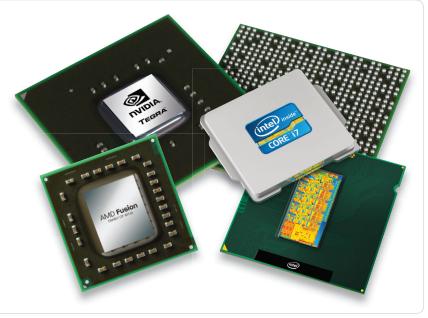
#### The State Of Internet Crime

According to the IC3's (Internet Crime Complaint Center's) 2010 Internet Crime Report, the top three Internet crimes in 2010 were failure to pay or deliver merchandise, scams in which someone impersonated the FBI, and identity theft. Over the course of the year, the IC3 logged roughly 25,000 complaints per month. Of the over 300,000 claims made last year, the FBI referred 121,710 of them to the appropriate law-enforcement agency at the federal, state, or local level. When factoring only the crimes in which the IC3 had information about the criminal, the organization noted that more than half of the crimes were committed by someone living in California, the District of Columbia, Florida, New York, Texas, or Washington.

Source: IC3

# Graphics Coming To A CPU Near You

Traditionally, GPUs (graphics processing units) are separate from CPUs, but according to a new report, half of all notebook PCs and 45% of all desktop PCs shipped worldwide in 2011 will feature integrated graphics in the form of Nvidia's Tegra, AMD's Fusion, or Intel's Sandy Bridge. In 2011, graphics-enabled microprocessors will show up in 11% more notebooks (from 39% in 2010) and 9% more desktops (from 36% in 2010). IHS iSuppli expects 83% of all notebook PCs and 76% of all desktop PC shipments worldwide to have integrated graphics-enabled microprocessors by 2014. *Source: IHS iSuppli* 

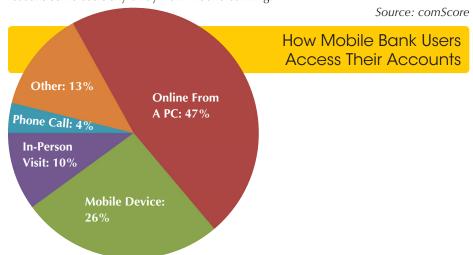


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#### marketplace

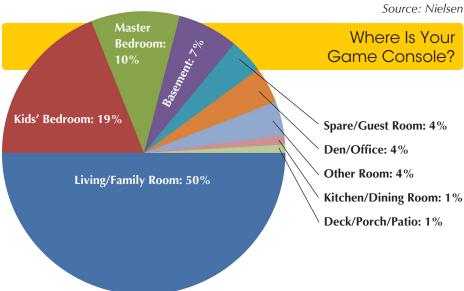
## Mobile Banking Booming

According to comScore, in Q4 2010, 29.8 million Americans accessed financial services via mobile devices. That's up from the 19.3 million who did the same the previous year; a 54% increase. Analysts believe convenience is the biggest reason people are banking on the small screen. The wider availability of smartphones also has a hand in bolstering mobile banking. Security and a preference for banking online from a fixed PC topped the reasons some users shy away from mobile banking.



## Mario & Meatloaf For Dinner!

As centers of our entertainment, game consoles have evolved to offer something for everyone, and the location of the consoles in Americans' homes is just further evidence of it. In 50% of U.S. households, the game console is predictably in the living or family room; 19% of households have a console in the kids' bedrooms, 10% in the master bedroom, 7% in the basement, and 4% have one in the office, spare room, or another room. Believe it or not, 1% of households have a game console on the porch or in the kitchen or dining room.



# tidbits

Smartphones are getting cheaper to build. Overall, smartphone components dropped in cost by 13% in 2010, thanks in large part to the use of free or inexpensive software and the integration of the smartphone's wireless technologies into a single chip. Source: In-Stat

Microsoft just released the latest version of its Internet browser, Internet Explorer 9. Within the first 24 hours of the launch, IE9 was downloaded 2.35 million times. That's more than 27 downloads every second.

Source: Microsoft

A third of the respondents (33%) to a new survey said they access the mobile Web at least once a week. In 2010, 28% said the same. Despite the growth, 44% admit they never access the Web with their phones. Nearly half also said they would use the mobile Web if it more closely resembled the desktop Web experience.

Source: Antenna Software

Smartphones with screens 4 inches and larger now make up 24% of the market, while phones with screens between 3.5 and 3.9 inches have largely maintained their share of the smartphone pie. Phones with 3.4-inch-and-smaller screens have seen the biggest decline since the dawn of the larger-screened smartphones; they've dropped from 63% of the market in 2009 to 36% in 2010.

Source: NPD Group

# Online Or In-Store?

# **Smart Retailers Give Shoppers** The Best Of Both Worlds

You can read scores of online reviews for a new product, but until you kick its tires some, you won't know if it's a good fit. By offering customers a local physical store presence as well as an online site, a few retailers provide shoppers benefits that even the biggest online-only retailers can't. For example, consider the leading CE retailer Best Buy.



#### Try Before You Buy

By visiting a Best Buy store in person, you can:

- View firsthand a device's physical traits, including construction quality, weight, and touchscreen responsiveness
- Ask associates face-to-face for product advice and guidance
- Judge the real-world audio quality of an MP3 player or test the comfort of headphones
- Check an HDTV's viewing angles, color accuracy, contrast, and antiglare ability
- · Explore a device's user interface and ease of use

#### **Support & Services**

Unlike online-only retailers, Best Buy provides:

- Numerous at-home and in-store installation, repair, setup, and upgrade services, some at discounted prices for products purchased from Best Buy
- Easy in-store replacement of returned products vs. having to repackage and mail them back to an online retailer and then waiting days for replacements
- Immediate purchase of accessories, some priced lower if bundled with a CE purchase
- In-store recycling drop-offs for CE products, as well as at-home, fee-based pickup services

#### **Store Pickup**

With flexibility to buy from Bestbuy.com and pick up items at your local store, you can:

- Avoid paying shipping charges
- Pick up qualifying purchases in-store in less than an hour after buying them online vs. waiting for days with an online-only
- Prevent deliveries from being lost, left unattended at your door, or dropped off at the wrong house
- Buy products online in one city for pickup in another
- Pre-order movie, music, and game titles online and pick up a guaranteed copy on the release date
- Have the payment for a qualified product automatically adjusted if it's priced lower in the store at the time of pickup

### EXPLORE YOUR NEEDS

# HT Considerations

While you can compare and contrast your options for a home-theater solution simply by looking at product tags, there are additional factors that will help you further pinpoint which HDTV, audio setup, disc player, etc., fits your specific needs. To learn which products are your best options, review the questions below and discuss your answers with a sales associate.

#### **HDTVs**

- Are you shopping for a flat-panel HDTV to replace a standard tube TV? If so, the size of your new TV can be slightly larger.
- Which of the following best suits your environment? An HDTV that takes up floor space but offers screen sizes up to 80 inches, an ultra-thin HDTV, or an HDTV that can be viewed from a wide angle? These characteristics can narrow your choice between RPTV, LCD, LED-LCD, or plasma HDTVs. See page 14.
- Does your home-theater room contain a lot of natural light or is it completely dark? This important factor can also help you determine if you should get an RPTV, LCD, LED-LCD, or plasma HDTV. See page 14.
- Do you plan on connecting HD components, such as a BD player or game console, to your HDTV? You might need a certain number of HDMI inputs.
- Are you going to use the HDTV to enjoy fast-action flicks, sports, or gaming? You'll need to make sure your new set has an adequate refresh rate for the best-looking on-screen images.
- Is social networking, retrieving Web or home network media, and accessing online services, such as Netflix, on the HDTV important to you? HDTV models offer different online features, so you'll need to find one that fits your needs. Also, consider if you want a TV that connects to the Web wired or wirelessly.

#### **Audio**

- How big is your HT room? This will help you pick the rightsized audio solution, such as a soundbar: a 5.1- or 7.2-channel surround-sound system; or inwall speakers. See page 11.
- Would you prefer selecting an all-in-one audio solution or individual speakers and components, such as a disc player and AVV receiver? If you want a simple solution, an all-in-one HTiB (home theater in a box) is probably the best route. See page 11.
- Do you want to stream satellite radio, audio tracks saved on your network, Web stations, or online services, such as Napster and iTunes? An AVV receiver, Internet radio player, or other streaming audio device will need to be added to your HT setup. See page 11.
- For a clean and modern look, do you want to avoid audio cables as much as possible? Select HTiBs have rear wireless speakers, and wholehouse wireless audio solutions are available.

#### **Accessories**

- Are optimal audio and video results what you want to enjoy in your home theater? Be sure you have the best cables to send signals from one device to another.
- No matter the home-theater device you choose, do you want to protect your new investment? A surge protector not only will prevent power spikes and surges from damaging your device, but it might also be able to deliver clean power.
- When you bring home your new HDTV, will your current TV furniture be outdated or too small? There are plenty of furniture options for a new HDTV, such as stands, wall mounts, and stands with built-in mounts.

### HOW TO BUY

# Portable TV & Video

## Watch Media When You Want, Where You Want



Portable entertainment devices are great for fast-paced lives because they let you enjoy TV shows, movies, and videos on the go. When you're browsing the aisles of your local CE retailer, use this guide to select the portable TV, media player, or DVD player that satisfies your media needs.

**Portable TVs.** Ideal for a father and son backyard camping night or any place away from home, a portable TV with a 7- to 10-inch screen lets you view TV programming anywhere you can pick up over-the-air broadcasts. Some models feature satellite receivers so you can tune in to a satellite provider's offerings with a paid subscription.

For instance, you can bring a portable TV to your football tailgating party to keep an eye on how other live team matchups are going. Other features included with some portable TVs are USB ports, built-in stereo speakers, and a remote control.

programming anywhere you can pick up over-the-air broadcasts.

**Portable media players.** Portable media players give you a lot of tech options at your fingertips. In

addition to playing media stored on the device, some portable media players let you video chat, record video, browse the Web via Wi-Fi, check social media sites, and keep each day organized with the help of apps. Depending on

... you can store thousands of songs and hours of video footage.

how much flash memory the media player includes, you can store thousands of songs and hours of video footage.

**Portable DVD players.** When you have a long airplane flight ahead, watching a favorite movie in private can help pass the time. A portable DVD player and set of head-

phones make that luxury possible. Portable DVD player batteries can generally last for two and a half to seven and a half hours. Screen sizes range from 6.9 to 11 inches, and many models include features such as antishock protection to ensure the DVD plays smoothly and a built-in MP3 player dock and memory card slots so you can watch media from other sources.

include features such as antishock protection to ensure the DVD plays smoothly and a built-in MP3 player dock and memory card slots . . .

BY JOANNA CLAY

# Basic & Advanced HT Audio Options

# Branch Out From Your TV Speakers

Many HDTV owners enjoy passable audio from their TVs' built-in speakers. Mind you, there's a big difference between "passable" and "impressive."

Here's a primer on upgrades for your home theater's sound system. Note that higher pricing often brings improved fidelity and better features with it.

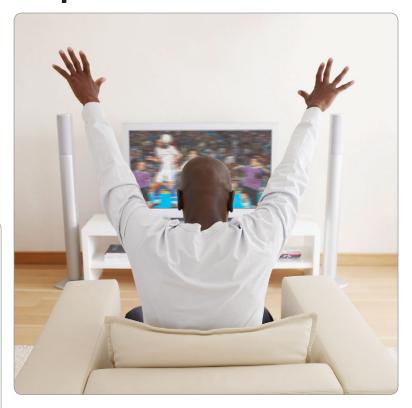
#### **Basic Audio Options**

Basic sound solutions are easy to set up. They may sound better than your TV speakers and provide more stereo separation (a wider distance between speakers).

A 2.1-channel set of powered speakers gives you inexpensive stereo playback. It includes left and right front speakers (the "2" part) and a subwoofer (the ".1" part) for deep bass.

Tower speakers are traditional floor-standing cabinets with speakers for bass, midrange, and treble audio. You'll need an A/V receiver to catch the sound from your disc player or other home-theater source, amplify it, and send it to your (typically left and right) tower speakers. Recent receivers may also support online content, MP3 players, satellite radio, and/or multiroom audio distribution.

Finally, a **soundbar** is a horizontal unit meant to go under or over the center of your TV. A soundbar uses multiple speakers and audio tricks to simulate surround sound, so you don't have to worry about mounting and cabling multiple speakers around the room.



#### **Advanced Audio Options**

A surround-sound system pairs an A/V receiver with several speakers. The components for a surround-sound setup can be bought separately or in a kit called an HTiB (home theater in a box), which can include a disc player and mounting accessories. When placed in a circle around your home theater's seating area, the speakers provide very definite directional sound cues.

A 5.1-channel system includes a subwoofer, plus center, front left/right, and rear (or side) left/right speakers. The center speaker is tuned to make dialogue sound clearer, which is ideal for those who stream video with no subtitles. Sets that are 7.1 channel and 9.1 channel build upon what a 5.1 system offers—they respectively include two or four more rear or side speakers for a more immersive sound. And with 10.2- and 22.2-channel setups on the horizon, audio is poised to become even more impressive.

BY MARTY SEMS

# Yes, You Need To Calibrate

# **Get Optimal HDTV Video Results**

#### Why A Professional Calibration?

- · Calibration specialists are ISF (Imaging Science Foundation)-certified, which means they are trained to use highly specialized and expensive equipment to calibrate HDTVs correctly.
- A calibration DVD might be a tempting alternative, but it won't let you adjust all of your HDTV's settings. An ISF-certified professional can access advanced service menus to calibrate your TV correctly. These settings aren't meant to be experimented with, so if you poke around and gain access to your TV's service menu, it's best to leave it alone. Many people have rendered their TVs useless because they didn't heed this warning.

#### Your Video May Not Be **All That It Seems**

- Most TVs are shipped with a set standard video mode meant for an electronics store display—this means that the TV's settings are adjusted to show the best picture in a bright, fluorescent-lit environment. Because it's unlikely your lighting at home matches the store's surroundings, you should have your TV professionally calibrated by a specialist to accommodate your home's unique lighting environment.
- An HDTV's viewing angle and your home-theater setup also affect how your HDTV should be calibrated. An ISF-certified professional takes these factors into account when making adjustments.
- Although you can expect to budget 10 to 15% of the purchase price of your television for a professional calibration, consider it an entertainment investment that will pay dividends for years to come.



#### What You Can Expect

- A calibration session includes two inputs on the set, so no matter which you use, you will get the best image clarity and sharpness your HDTV can provide.
- · A professional will use color analyzer equipment to objectively tune color saturation and temperature as precisely as possible, letting you see video exactly the same way it looked when it was created.
- Your HDTV's contrast will be set up to provide greater video detail as well as the darkest blacks and brightest whites.

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## ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

# Projectors

# What is a digital projector?

A Similar in size to an old-fashioned slide projector, a digital model uses a bright light and lenses to project a video signal onto a screen or wall.

# Why should I consider buying a home-theater projector instead of an HDTV?

A projector can display a larger picture than a typical HDTV at a lower cost than a really big TV.

### What is resolution?

This is the projector's pixel (picture element) count (horizontal by vertical), such as 1,680 x 1,050. The higher the resolution, the more detailed the projected image can be.

## What resolution should I shop for?

To accommodate HD video, get a widescreen resolution that can display 1080p or at least 720p, such as WXGA (Widescreen Extended Graphics Array; 1,280 x 800).

# What's the difference between native and maximum resolution?

A Native resolution indicates the limits of a projector's display technology. Maximum resolution refers to the highest-definition video the projector can downconvert to its native resolution.

## What is contrast ratio?

A This figure, important in a home-theater projector, compares the darkest and lightest colors it can display. Higher contrast ratios generally indicate a more lifelike image.

### What are lumens?

A projector's lumen count indicates the brightness of its picture. A 1,000-lumen model is fine for a dark room, but if your room has windows, buy a 1,500 lumen or brighter model.

## What is DLP?

Digital Light Processing is a display technology that shines lamp light through a spinning color wheel onto tiny, movable mirrors. DLP's image quality complements movie presentations in darker rooms.

## What is 3LCD?

This quiet, power-efficient display technology uses three liquid-crystal displays to regulate lamp light passing through color openings. 3LCD's typical picture brightness makes it suitable for home theaters with windows.

## What are LED projectors?

A Long-lasting light-emitting diodes replace incandescent bulbs in these models. Potential benefits include better contrast and color, along with power savings.









# **HDTVs**

# **Screen Technology Differences**



#### LCD (liquid-crystal display)

LCDs can use one of two backlight technologies. CCFLs (cold cathode fluorescent lamps) are the most common, but LEDs are the latest backlight technology to hit the LCD scene. (See the "LED" section for more info on LED TVs.)

#### **Pros**

- The thin profiles and light weight of LCDs make them easy to mount on a wall.
- Power demands are a bit lower than comparably sized plasma displays and considerably lower than CRT televisions.

#### Cons

• Fast-moving images may suffer from a slight trailer effect, but with improved LCD technology, the effect is barely perceptible.

- When pixels stick on or off, they show up as either a pinpoint of bright light or black, which can be distracting on-screen.
- From certain viewing angles, LCDs will lose video contrast and color.
- LCDs with CCFL backlighting suffer from leaking light, and unlike LEDs, they can't dim certain areas on-screen. This may result in blacks and whites that appear to be more gray in color.

#### **Best For**

- Streaming PC content
- Bright, sunny rooms

#### LED (light-emitting diode)

LED TVs are actually a type of LCD TV. These sets use one of two LED backlight technologies:

- Full-array lighting places LEDs behind the screen in a grid pattern, letting the TV dim certain LEDs for the best contrast ratios available.
- Edge-lit sets have LEDs placed around the frame of the TV, and light is directed toward the center of the screen. Edge-lit models cost less than full-array sets and are a lot thinner.

#### **Pros**

• By using LEDs, these sets use a lot less electricity than other HDTVs, and

- they don't contain harmful mercury.
- Overall, LED TVs are onethird thinner than other LCD TVs and have longer life spans.
- Plasmas are well-known for their deep blacks, crisp whites, and fast response times, but LED TVs closely match in performance.

#### Cons

- These sets are costly because they feature a relatively new technology.
- · Blooming, or a halo effect, may encircle bright images that are on dark backgrounds.

#### **Best For**

- Eco-conscious viewers
- Fast-paced gaming

#### Plasma

#### Pros

- A plasma TV's phosphors light up evenly across the screen to create images, which are consistently bright and clear with vibrant colors.
- The contrast ratio is high, so you'll see some of the darkest blacks and brightest whites.
- The design and technology of plasma TVs lend themselves to large screen sizes—typically 42 inches or greater.
- Rapid pixel response means no blurry motion.
- Wide viewing angles give you the same high-quality images on-screen no matter where in the room you happen to be sitting.

- Some plasmas are susceptible to image burn-in if not cared for properly.
- Low air pressure and high altitudes may cause plasmas to buzz.
- Some plasmas have highly reflective glass, which isn't ideal in sunny settings.

#### **Best For**

- Large groups who watch TV together
- Movies or sports with nonstop action

#### **RPTV** (rear-projection TV)

#### **Pros**

- RPTVs are surprisingly lightweight for their sizes.
- You'll find exceptional picture quality on very big screens (typically 60 inches and larger).
- As screens get bigger, RPTVs tend to be more cost-effective than an LCD, LED, or plasma TV.

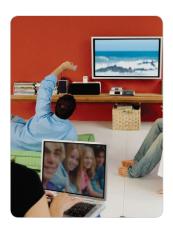
#### Cons

- With depths of 16 to 24 inches, these TVs are far too big and bulky to mount on a wall.
- RPTVs require lamp replacements every few years.

#### **Best For**

- Anyone who wants to bring a cinematic experience home
- Big, roomy home theaters

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# **HDTV Glossary**

Balderdash! OK, HDTV jargon isn't quite *that* bad, but there are a few terms that every shopper needs to know. Here is your cheat sheet.

aspect ratio—Put simply, it's the shape of the TV's screen. An HDTV has a wider picture than a traditional TV of the same vertical screen height. An HDTV has a 16:9 aspect ratio, meaning that if its screen were 16 inches wide, it would be 9 inches tall. A regular 4:3 TV screen would be 12 inches wide at the same 9-inch height.

HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface)—A type of cable connection that carries both high-resolution video and uncompressed multichannel audio between HDTVs, home-theater receivers, and the other components required for your home-theater setup. HDMI cables maintain top picture and sound quality.

**HD** tuner—A built-in tuner for receiving local high-def broadcast TV channels. You won't need one if you have cable or satellite service. Most HDTVs include one, but separate HD tuners and antennas are available if your TV doesn't have one.

interlaced—When an HDTV displays an interlaced image, as in 1080i or 480i resolutions, it really shows you every other horizontal line of a frame of video (called a field) at a time. Sixty times a second, the TV displays the other field of the frame, or the lines not shown in the previous field. Interlaced video can appear to flicker or might cause moving objects onscreen to have blurred edges.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—Like a notebook's screen, an LCD HDTV uses a fluid crystal substance to form pixels of color in front of a backlight. LCDs may not be able to match plasma TVs' deep black and gray areas, but they're lighter, sometimes less fragile, and considered easier to set up. These work better in brighter rooms or if you will be playing unchanging images on the screen for an extended period of time.

plasma—Plasma TVs use a tiny tube of gas for each pixel, and electricity makes each pixel glow. Plasmas create deeper blacks and sometimes brighter colors than LCDs and have better contrast. These also offer slightly better viewing angles. However, older or less expensive models can also suffer from permanent screen

damage if an unchanging image, such as a TV channel's stock ticker or parts of certain video games, is displayed too long.

progressive scan—A TV showing a progressively scanned image, as in 1080p or 720p resolutions, displays a full frame of video (both odd-lined and even-lined fields) all at once. Progressive scan video looks sharper than interlaced does and doesn't flicker.

projection—Some large-screen HDTVs offer lower-priced alternatives to LCDs or plasmas by using projection technologies. These technologies vary, but all projection TVs throw light on a screen from the front or rear. This means they are bulkier than plasmas or LCDs, but some sets have stellar picture quality.

viewing angle—No matter where you sit in front of an HDTV with a wide viewing angle, such as 170 degrees, its picture should look reasonably good. Test this before you buy.

widescreen—A TV or monitor that's wider horizontally in relation to its vertical height. HDTVs typically have a 16:9 aspect ratio rather than an older 4:3 display.

# Should You Get An LCD Or LED-LCD TV?

So you've decided to get an LCD TV. The next step is deciding which LCD TV to invest in. LCDs use different kinds of lights to project an image onto the screen. A traditional LCD uses CCFLs or EEFLs whereas new LED-LCDs use LEDs. Here's a look at what sets apart a few of the latest LCD and LED-LCD TVs.

		Light projection	Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs & Outputs	Refresh rate**
	What It Means	How images are projected on-screen; type of backlight an LED-LCD uses	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV resolution; images are best dis- played in this	The angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect devices; Outputs transfer information to pe- ripherals	Speed at which a screen is re- drawn every second
-	LG 32LK330 MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 2137061	CCFL	31.5 inches	20x31.5x2.9 inches; N/A	720p	N/A	3 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 PC	60Hz
	Sony KDL-32BX420 MSRP: \$529.99* SKU 2072076	CCFL	32 inches	19.6x31.5x 3.6 inches; 23 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	2 HDMI, 1 Component, 2 Composite, 1 PC, 1 USB; 2 audio outputs	60Hz
HOUSE CONTRACTOR	<b>Toshiba 40E210U</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 2138389	CCFL	40 inches	23.9x43.4x3.5 inches; 31.1 pounds	1080p	N/A	2 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 PC, 1 USB; N/A	60Hz
	Westinghouse VR-6025Z MSRP: \$1,199* SKU 2047526	CCFL	60 inches	35x56.6x 4.6 inches; 85 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	3 HDMI, 1 Composite, 2 Component, 1 PC; 1 audio output	120Hz
	Insignia NS-42E570A11 MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 9595128	LED (N/A)	42 inches	39.6x24.8x1.9 inches; 32.2 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 1USB; 2 audio outputs	120Hz
	Samsung UN40D6000S MSRP: \$1,099* SKU 2126339	LED (N/A)	40 inches	22.9x37.6x 1.2 inches; 24 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 USB; 1 audio output	120Hz
	Mitsubishi LT-46164 MSRP: \$2,099* SKU 1037296	LED (edge-lit)	46 inches	29x43.3x 2.9 inches; 51.7 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Composite, 2 Component, 1 PC, 1 Ethernet, 2 USB; 3 audio outputs	120Hz
	Sharp LC-70LE732U MSRP: \$3,299.99* SKU 2047632	LED (back-lit)	70 inches	38.4x63.5x 3.5 inches; 92.6 pounds	1080p	176 degrees	4 HDMI, 1 Component, 2 Composite, 1 Ethernet, 1 PC, 2 USB; 2 audio outputs	120Hz

<sup>\*</sup>Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. \*\*\*Unless specified, this is without stand

<sup>\*\*</sup>Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges. For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.



# Which Plasma TV Is Best For You?

If you're planning to buy a plasma HDTV, it might be hard to decide on one just by looking at a wall of gorgeous sets. Refer to this chart for further help when shopping.

		Size	Dimensions; Weight***	Native resolution	Viewing angle	Inputs	Outputs	Refresh rate**
	What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the TV's screen	Height x width x depth; How much the TV weighs	A fixed TV reso- lution; images are best dis- played in the na- tive resolution	The maximum angle at which the viewer can see the screen clearly	Inputs let you connect your components to your TV	Outputs transfer information from your TV to pe- ripherals, such as audio to speakers	Speed at which a screen is re- drawn every second
PHI SA	Insignia NS-42P650A11 MSRP: \$499.99* SKU 9748831	42 inches	24.9x40.6x2.8 inches; 49.6 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite	2 audio	600Hz
	Panasonic TC-P42X3 MSRP: \$599.95* SKU 2120043	42 inches	25.1x 40.3x3.7 inches; 60.6 pounds	1080p	N/A	2 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 Composite, 2 USB, 1 Ethernet	1 audio	600Hz
	Samsung PN43D450A2 MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 2122236	43 inches	24.5x39.8x2.2 inches; 35.3 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 USB	1 audio	600Hz
130°	Insignia NS-50P650A11 MSRP: \$697.99* SKU 9745916	50 inches	31.3x47.4x 2.8 inches; 50.7 pounds	720р	N/A	2 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 Composite	2 audio	600Hz
	Panasonic VIERA TC-P46X3 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 2125242	46 inches	27.7x44.4x3.7 inches; 58.5 pounds	720p	N/A	2 HDMI, 1 Component, 1 Composite, 2 USB, 1 Ethernet	1 audio	600Hz
	Samsung PN43D490A1D MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 2121834	43 inches	24.5x39.8x2.2 inches; 35.3 pounds	720p	N/A	3 HDMI, 2 Component, 1 PC, 1 USB	1 audio	600Hz
	Panasonic VIERA TC-P55ST30 MSRP: \$1,799.95* SKU 2201056	55.1 inches	32x52.2x2.8 inches; 72.8 pounds	1080p	N/A	3 HDMI, 1 Component, 2 USB	1 audio	600Hz
- HX	Samsung PN64D7000F MSRP: \$3,399.99* SKU 2345428	64 inches	35x58.6x1.5 inches; 77.2 pounds	1080p	N/A	4 HDMI, 2 Component, 2 USB, 1PC	1 audio	600Hz

<sup>\*</sup>Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing. \*\*\*Unless specified, this is without stand

<sup>\*\*</sup>Comparing refresh rates between plasma and LCD TVs is like comparing apples to oranges. For more in-depth information about refresh rates, please ask a sales associate.



## NOTEWORTHY \_\_\_\_\_

# Accessories & Services

As you head toward the HDTV section of your local consumer electronics store, you'll invariably pass shelves of bland-looking HDTV accessories. There are a handful of accessories that are vital to getting the most from your HDTV. The following is a rundown of the accessories we recommend to complete your home-theater setup.



#### **WALL MOUNTS & BRACKETS**

- View your HDTV from the best possible angle
- Adjust your TV's position by tilting it up or down as needed
- Maximize space in your viewing room by hanging up your TV



#### **CLEANING KIT**

- Protect your HDTV's screen by using specially formulated sprays and cloths while cleaning it
- · Eliminate the danger of scratching delicate screens
- No-drip formulas prevent damage to other hometheater equipment

Offer flexibility if you're un-

able to mount your HDTV

Available in a variety of fin-

ishes to match any décor

Provide a place for addi-

tional home-theater equip-



- Protect your home theater from potential damage fluctuations
  - Filter out "dirty power" (also known as electrical "noise" or radio interference) that can degrade your home theater's audio and video with a power conditioner



- Simplify your home-theater setup with one remote that can control all of your components
- Program different functions so that you will be able to watch a movie by pressing just one button, for example
- Easily view options in the dark with a backlit LCD



#### **SURROUND-SOUND SYSTEM**

- Maximize your HDTV experience with theaterlike audio
- Feel like you're in the movie scene instead of just watching it
- Even out softer and louder programming with an equalizer



#### **SURGE PROTECTORS & POWER CONDITIONERS**

- by using a surge protector that will absorb electrical
- Have peace of mind knowing that your home theater will give you its peak performance for the longest amount of time



#### **HOME-THEATER SERVICES**

A home theater is a pretty big investment, so it's wise to consider letting a professional handle your installation and setup. Let your local CE retailer tackle the following tasks, and you'll be able to enjoy the full glory of HD in no time.

- Home Theater In-Home Consultation
- TV Recycling
- TV Calibration
- TV Mounting & Cord Concealment
- Remote Control Programming
- Speaker Setup



#### **CORD-CONCEALMENT** KIT

- Hide multiple cords while keeping them organized and minimize cord clutter
- Keep the focus on your new HDTV, not the cords connected to it

#### **HDMI CABLES**



Carry uncompressed digital audio and video signals to and from your HDTV and its components

ment

**TV STANDS** 

on the wall

Eliminate interference from other components with shielding (found in higher-end cables)

## EXPLORE YOUR NEEDS

# DI Considerations

While it's tempting to choose a camera based on its color and size, there are many other factors you should investigate. To unveil your important digital imaging needs, answer the questions below. After that, you can discuss your findings with a sales associate who can point you to your ideal solution.

#### Cameras

- Which of the following best describes your camera usage: "I enjoy tinkering with multiple camera settings for creative shots," or "I'd rather let a camera automatically choose optimal shot settings for me." This can narrow your choice between a D-SLR or compact system and a point-and-shoot camera. See page 23.
- Are you interested in a camera with unique features, such as front- and rearfacing LCDs; a touchscreen LCD; 3D photos and video; a built-in projector; or a water-, shock-, dust-, or freeze-resistant body? Today's digicams have plenty of advanced features—much more than what's listed here.
- When making photo prints, how large are you planning to go? Whether it's standard 4x6 prints or poster-sized prints, you'll need an appropriate megapixel rating to create good-looking prints up to a certain size.
- Do you want to capture photo perspectives that a point-and-shoot can't offer?

  A camera with swappable lenses gives you the flexibility to take up-close photos of subjects from afar, snap wide expanses, and focus on tiny objects. See page 29.
- Is it important that your camera is compact and slim enough to slip into a pocket, or is size not an issue? Some point-and-shoot models are ultrasmall, whereas advanced point-and-shoots, D-SLRs, and compact system cameras have bigger bodies.
- How close do you want to be able to get to your photo subjects? You'll want enough optical zoom to match your photography needs.

#### Camcorders

- What do you want to record in HD video? Informal day-to-day events or special occasions, such as weddings, your child's first piano recital, etc.? This might reveal if you're a better fit for a shoot-and-share or standard camcorder.
- Will you hold the camcorder to shoot video? Optical Image Stabilization can help offset video motion blur if you accidentally shake the camcorder.
- 3 Is it likely that you'll record in low-light settings, such as theater performances or evening baseball games? A model with low-light technology will help prevent video that's grainy in appearance.
- Are you someone with an active lifestyle? If so, a flash drive camcorder will be better equipped to handle life's bumps, and some shoot-and-share models are even waterproof.
- How close do you want to be able to get to your video subjects? You'll want enough optical zoom to match your videography needs.
- Which video offloading method do you prefer? Tape, DVD, memory card, or by connecting to your PC via cable or a built-in USB? This will help you find the camcorder recording format that best fits your lifestyle.

#### **Accessories**

- Do you have the appropriate type and size of memory cards for a new camera or camcorder? Today's digital imaging devices require memory cards that are faster and larger than their predecessors.
- Rather than let your digital memories collect dust on a hard drive, would you like to be able to see them on a daily basis? Simply plug your memory card into a digital photo frame, and you have instant viewing access.
- Now that you've picked a new digicam or camcorder, do you want to keep it in great working order for as long as possible? With a well-constructed case, you can protect it from damage, such as lens and LCD scratches.

# Create Sharp, Vivid Video & Stills

# Sony Offers Powerful, Simple Imaging Tools

There are many ways to create beautiful images, and no matter what your photographic goal might be, there's a Sony (www.sony.com) product that can help you make those digital memories last a lifetime. From sharp, crisp stills to bright, beautiful HD video, Sony has the imaging tools you need.

#### **Bloggie Duo HD** Camera

The Bloggie Duo video camera features two displays: one screen in front and one in back, so self recording is a snap. Small enough to fit in a pocket or purse, the Bloggie Duo can record up to two hours of MP4 1080p HD video or shoot crisp 5MP stills. Preinstalled software makes it easy to upload videos and images from a Mac or PC to YouTube, Facebook, Personal Space by Sony, or other sites.

The Bloggie Duo makes shooting video fun and easy. A flip-out USB arm lets you recharge or transfer files, and

image stabilization reduces blur caused by camera shake. An auto-macro mode and 4X digital zoom helps you bring the world up close or shoot from as little as four inches away—perfect for capturing a business card or phone number. Face detection technology helps optimize settings so that faces are clear and natural-looking, while an HDMI output lets you display your images on your HDTV or compatible monitor. And for even more video fun, don't forget the 3D Bloggie, which lets you shoot 3D HD video and view it on the Bloggie's LCD without glasses.

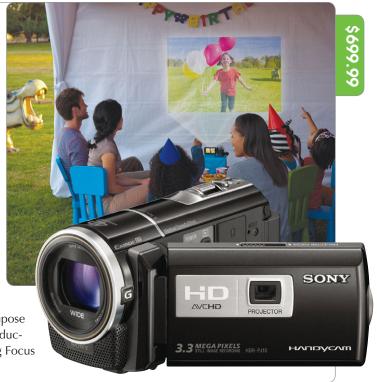


#### **COVER STORY**

# HDR-PJ10 Handycam Projector/Camcorder

Sony's 16GB full HD projector/camcorder is a high-quality video camera with a twist: In addition to recording up to six hours of full 1080p HD video, the HDR-PJ10 Handycam includes a built-in high-contrast projector and Clear Phase stereo speakers. Powerful enough to project up to a 60-inch (diagonal) image, you'll be able to share your memories almost anywhere. (And an HDMI output lets you display your videos on a compatible HDTV or other display, also.)

The HDR-PJ10 offers a host of features to make your shooting easier and your photos better. Get close to the video action with a 43X extended zoom (30X optical), or shoot bright, sharp 3-megapixel still images. Capture wide-angle stills or video with the professional-quality G lens. Image stabilization compensates for camera shake, delivering smooth video with all settings. The camera's 3-inch touchscreen display helps you set the camera and compose your shots more easily, even in bright sunlight. Wind-noise reduction enhances the audio portion of your video, while Tracking Focus continuously focuses on a selected object, even if it moves.

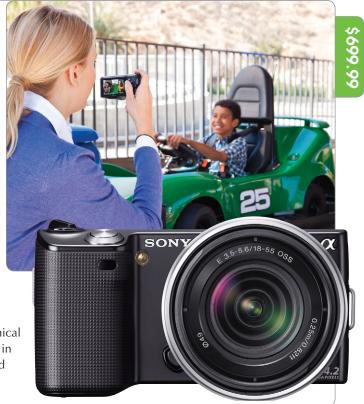


#### NEX-5K/B Camera

The NEX-5K/B is a camera with all of the quality of a D-SLR, but smaller, lighter, and much less complex. With a resolution of 14.2MP and a huge Exmor APS HD CMOS sensor, the NEX-5 shoots crystal clear, blazingly sharp video and stills, even in low light. You can also record FullHD 1080/60i video with the simple push of a button. HDMI output lets you display your videos on a compatible TV or other display. It's small and light, but the NEX-5 delivers uncompromising still and video quality.

Part of the appeal of SLR photography is the ability to change lenses as circumstances dictate, and the Sony NEX-5 offers a wide range of lenses: Whether you're after wide-angle sports shots or want to zoom in for portraits and scenic images, there's an E-mount lens that will fill the bill. (And for even more flexibility, an adapter lets you use any of the more than 30 available Sony A-mount lenses with your NEX-5.)

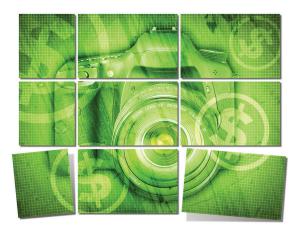
The NEX-5 is sophisticated but easy to use, featuring a simple turn-and-click control wheel and a pair of soft keys. The graphical user interface features familiar icons, so you'll be comfortable in no time at all—and if you do need some guidance, an onboard Help Guide is included.



#### **HOW TO BUY**

# Digital Media File Storage

## Store Photos & Videos



Digital cameras and camcorders give us instant pictures and video of our lives. Here's how to buy storage for the media files they create.

Choose a medium. Some of us use memory cards like film: When we fill one up with digital photos, we pop it out, throw it in a drawer, and buy a new card. That said, you can save money by moving your files to

another type of storage media, such as recordable DVD or an external hard drive. Also, offloading your files will free up your memory cards for reuse in your camera. That's a direct benefit

... you can save money by moving your files to another type of storage media . . .

to you if you're an active shutterbug, because it will allow you to take more pictures without having to shop for new cards.

**Save the originals.** There's a big difference between the digital files created by your camcorder or camera and the photo prints or video discs you make from them.

You need to back up the original files to preserve the content in its highest fidelity. Master files also let you edit copies of them for later projects, such as a family photo montage or home movie highlights disc.

You need to back up the original files to preserve the content in its highest fidelity.

DVD/CD/BD notes. Optical discs let you store your backups of irreplaceable files in a different location, such as a safe deposit box, to avoid theft or natural

disasters. That said, there's a trick to moving your files to DVD, CD, or BD (Blu-ray Disc). Whether you use discburning software or your computer's OS to do this, select the option to make a data

Optical discs let you store your backups of irreplaceable files in a different location . . .

disc instead of a video or photo disc. This will back up your files in their original forms.

BY MARTY SEMS

# Take Advantage Of Scene Settings

Today's Cameras Make It Easy To Shoot Better Photos

A lot goes into shooting great photos: lighting, exposure, balance, composition, and more. But you don't have to be an expert to get expert results. To-day's digital cameras do much of the work for you, and many have special scene settings to help you attain photographic excellence.

#### Set The Scene For Great Photos

Scene settings (sometimes called scene modes) adjust all of the camera's variables to best capture specific types of shots: evening photos, action-packed sports, and more. Most cameras offer basic scene modes for portraits, landscapes, and night shots. But many offer more sophisticated settings that will help with those specialty photos: When you're trying to capture that perfect fireworks, museum, beach, or close-up shot, an automatic scene setting takes care of the technical details while you concentrate on getting the picture that you want.

#### **Automatic Advantages**

Of course, you can capture great images by using your camera's manual settings; experienced photographers have been doing that for years. But that requires that you constantly adjust your camera as you're shooting. While an expert can certainly do that, most of us beginner or intermediate photographers would like the option of having the camera adjust itself, while we just point the camera and wait for the best shot.

### **Quick Scene Changes**

If you only shot one type of photo, scene modes wouldn't matter much—it's easy enough to set a camera for one type of shot. But if you go from shooting sports on a soccer field to an indoor arena, and from shooting a sunrise at the beach to a candid indoor portrait, you'll appreciate the flexibility and ease of use that special scene settings add to your photographic repertoire.

## Common Scene Settings To Match Your Needs



Landscape











Sports

BY ROD SCHER

# Olympus Cameras

# Go Anywhere, **Do Anything**

Active moms need a camera that complements their lifestyle, and Olympus (www.olympus america.com) has a line of cameras to suit any mom's busy schedule or sense of adventure.





#### TG-810: The Active Adventurer

If you're the type of outdoorsy mom who takes the family hiking, biking, swimming, or skiing, you need a camera that's as tough as you are. The 14MP TG-810 can go virtually anywhere and still deliver great photos and video in extreme conditions. It's waterproof up to 33 feet, can withstand drops from up to 6.6 feet, is freezeproof down to 14 degrees Fahrenheit, and can resist up to 220 pounds of pressure.

The 5X wide-angle optical zoom lets you get close to the action, and dual image stabilization will help keep images crisp while the large 3-inch LCD lets you see what you're shooting, even in direct sunlight. You can quickly switch to movie mode and record 720p HD videos in a widescreen format.

No matter whether you're underwater or on top of a mountain, the TG-810 can shoot 3D photos, giving your adventure shots even greater depth and excitement. And with a GPS map display, you can see where your photos were taken.

FirstGlimpse



#### VG-140: The Modern Memory Keeper

You never know when a special moment needs to be captured, and it pays to be prepared. If you're a mom who likes to keep the camera handy at all times, whether at home, at special events, or just running errands, the VG-140 is for you. The slim, versatile camera easily fits in any bag or pocket, keeping a low profile until you're ready to pull it out.

Despite its diminutive size, the VG-140 sports a big 3-inch LCD and boasts 14MP and a 5X optical zoom. Digital image stabilization will help keep your images sharp even if you're laughing at Junior's antics, and the Intelligent Auto feature automatically identifies the type of scene you're shooting (such as a portrait) and adjusts its settings accordingly. You can do a lot within the camera itself, too; with Magic Art Filters, you can apply all sorts of effects to your photos in-camera, and if you need help figuring anything out, the VG-140 has in-camera help guides.



#### E-PL1: The Avid Archiver

If you're ready for the control you can get from a DSLR but still prefer some of the convenience of a point-and-shoot, the E-PL1 is for you.

In addition to a handy pop-up flash, the E-PL1 lets you swap lenses to give you more creative freedom—yet it's still compact and light, so you can take it everywhere and capture amazing professional images with the E-PL1's high-performance DSLR sensor.

The 12.3MP camera can shoot HD video (720p too!). And with iAuto and the Live Guide, the camera automatically selects optimal settings for a photo, but also allows you to alter the pictures too, live, right on the LCD before you even take the picture. You can get even more creative and add effects with the incamera Art Filters, different picture aspects, and more!



#### TG-610: The Multi-Tasker

Moms who run around with the family in the mountains aren't the only ones who need a camera that can take a beating with aplomb; the bottom of your purse or briefcase, the bleachers at a basketball game, or even a curious, slobbering little one can be just as rough on your camera.

The T-610 is waterproof to 16 feet, so it will live through a dunk in the pool, and it's shockproof up to 5 feet. It's also freezeproof to 14 F and delivers excellent photos and 720p HD video. The 14MP camera has the same 5X wide-angle optical zoom, 3-inch LCD, and dual image stabilization as its bigger brother the TG-810, and it also can capture 3D still images.

You can operate the TG-610's many features with Tap Control, which lets you navigate by tapping on the top, back, and sides of the camera—ideal when underwater or while wearing gloves. And you (or your curious kids) can customize and add your own stylistic preferences to your photos right on the camera.

# Get The Best Shot In Any Situation

## Nikon Cameras Offer The Tools You Need

The key to great photos is using the right tools. Nikon's digital cameras (www.nikonusa.com) offer valuable features that can help you take crystal clear shots in less-than-ideal shooting situations, such as when your subject is far away or under low-light conditions.





**Zoom In On The Action** 

With extended zoom capabilities, the COOLPIX P500 (\$399.95) can help you capture unique photos when you're far away from the subject. Even if you're high up in the bleachers, you'll be able to snap an up-close-and-personal shot of your son's first home run with this extended zoom camera. The result will look crisp and clear; as if you were sitting in the dugout.

Nikon's long zoom cameras are perfect for all types of photography. You've never been closer to your subjects than you are with the P500's 36X (22.5–810mm) wide-angle optical Zoom-NIKKOR ED glass lens. The P500 pulls you in from wide panoramas to detailed close-ups. Whether you're shooting a scenic overlook or a candlelit dinner, the COOLPIX P500 captures images the way you want them. And with a five-way, Hybrid VR Image Stabilization system, your photographs are sharp, clear, and full of detail. Nikon offers several COOLPIX camera models with extended optical zooms from 10X all the way up to 36X. To find a model with the right zoom for you, consult the chart on the next page.

### **Shoot In Low Light**

If you've ever snapped a photo of friends in a dimly lit restaurant or taken a photograph of your family by the campfire at night, you've likely noticed that taking photos under low-light conditions can be troublesome. Nikon COOLPIX cameras with high-performance CMOS image sensors, such as the P500, S8100 (\$299.95), and S9100 (\$329.95), combat this problem by reducing noise and improving the quality of photos taken in low light. Shooting at night is a breeze with built-in Scene Modes such as Night Landscape, Party/Indoor, Night Portrait, and Fireworks.

# Find The Nikon COOLPIX That Fits Your Life

Nikon's COOLPIX cameras won't let you miss the joy in life, thanks to their fast start-up time, zoom capability, and low-light performance. Each offers an ultra-compact and stylish design that will deliver sharp and colorful photo results with its NIKKOR lens. With a wide range of models available, it couldn't be easier to find a camera that can keep up with your photography needs. In addition to the cameras on this page, be sure to check out the Nikon COOLPIX S6100, S80, P300, P7000, and S1100pj models that are available at Bestbuy.com.



Product Name SKU	Nikon COOLPIX L24 1987084	Nikon COOLPIX <b>S3100</b> 1977048	Nikon COOLPIX <b>S4100</b> 2044468	Nikon COOLPIX L120 2049039	Nikon COOLPIX S8100 1222844	Nikon COOLPIX <b>S9100</b> 1977039	Nikon COOLPIX P500 1978047
Additional	Nither COCKINY (COCKINY ) 2422154	■ 2422367	Nikon (1987)		Nikon 2422506	2422721	Milan
Colors Available	2422145	<ul><li>2422279</li><li>2422233</li><li>2422181</li><li>2422224</li><li>2422303</li></ul>	■ 2422472 ■ 2422463		2422712	2423038	
MSRP*	\$119.95	\$139.95	\$179.95	\$279.95	\$299.95	\$329.95	\$399.95
Resolution	14MP	14MP	14MP	14.1MP	12.1MP	12.1MP	12.1MP
Zoom	3.6X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	5X optical; 4X digital	21X optical; 4X digital	10X optical; 4X digital	18X optical; 4X digital	36X optical; 4X digital
LCD Monitor	3 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches	3 inches
Internal Memory & Compatible Cards	17MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	45MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	20MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	102MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	102MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	74MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC	102MB & SD/ SDHC/SDXC
ISO	Up to 1600	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 6400	Up to 3200	Up to 3200	Up to 3200
Shooting Modes	16 Scene Modes, plus Auto	19 Scene Modes, plus Auto	20 Scene Modes, plus Auto	17 Scene Modes, plus Auto	6 Scene Auto Selector Modes, 17 Scene Modes, plus Auto	19 Scene Modes, plus Auto	19 Scene Modes, plus Auto
Movie Mode	Yes	Yes (720p HD)	Yes (720p HD)	Yes (720p HD)	Yes (1080p HD)	Yes (1080p HD)	Yes (1080p HD)
Touch-Panel Control	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No
Battery Type	AA	Li-lon recharge- able battery	Li-lon recharge- able battery	AA	Li-lon recharge- able battery	Li-lon recharge- able battery	Li-lon recharge- able battery
Battery Life	220 shots alkaline, 700 shots lithium	220 shots	190 shots	330 shots alkaline, 890 shots lithium	210 shots	270 shots	220 shots

<sup>\*</sup> Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



# Instantly Upload Photos & Videos Anywhere

# With Eye-Fi Wireless **SDHC Memory Cards**

Let's face it—many of us avoid dealing with the snapshots and videos we have saved on a memory card until it's reached maximum capacity. We put off the task of firing up the computer and uploading and organizing those

memory card (www.eye.fi), all of that uploading and organizing is automatically taken care of. Find an Eye-Fi card that best suits your needs in the chart below.

files because it can take a long

time to do. With an Eye-Fi Wireless

#### Introducing Eye-Fi Mobile X2

Adding to its current lineup of wireless SDHC memory cards, Eye-Fi's new Mobile X2 card offers Direct Mode, a feature that lets you transfer your memories in full resolution to your smartphone or tablet, in addition to your computer and favorite media-sharing Web sites.

> Using the free Eye-Fi app, you'll be able to view and share your high-quality photos and videos at any time on one of these portable devices. Direct Mode allows you to connect to your smartphone or tablet without having to be near your Wi-Fi

network. The card will connect directly to your device, giving you the ability to wirelessly upload photos and videos virtually anywhere.

Product Name SKU	<b>Eye-Fi Connect X2</b> 9765392	Eye-Fi	<b>Eye-Fi Mobile X2</b> 9765416	Eye-Fi	<b>Eye-Fi Pro X2</b> 9761086	Eye-Fi
MSRP*	\$49.99	4GB +Wi-Fi	\$79.99	8GB +Wi-Fi	\$99.99	8GB +Wi-Fi
Memory Capacity & Type	4GB SDHC Class 6		8GB SDHC Class 6		8GB SDHC Class 6	
Wireless Frequency & Range	802.11b/g/n 45 feet indoors, 90 feet	outdoors	802.11b/g/n 45 feet indoors, 90 fee	et outdoors	802.11b/g/n 45 feet indoors, 90 fee	et outdoors
Capabilities	Wireless uploads of photo directly from camera to sr tablet, PC/Mac, and favor sharing sites. Automatic b organization on your com	martphone, ite online ackup and	Wireless uploads of pho directly from camera to tablet, PC/Mac, and fav sharing sites. Automatic organization on your co	smartphone, orite online backup and	Wireless uploads of photos and videos directly from camera to smartphone, tablet, PC/Mac, and favorite online sharing sites. Automatic backup and organization on your computer.	
Endless Memory. Never miss a shot again as space becomes free after your media is automatically uploaded.	as space becomes free after your media		V		<i>v</i>	
<b>Direct Mode.</b> Instantly upload full- resolution files to your smartphone, tablet, and PC or Mac.	V		V		V	
Ad Hoc				V		
Geotagging Upgrade	Can add for \$29.99		Can add for \$29.99		V	
One-year Hotspot Access	Can add for \$29.99 per	year	Can add for \$29.99 per year		~	
Eye-Fi View. Access your photos and videos from the past week to view, share, and download full-resolution files.			V		V	
<b>Eye-Fi Premium Upgrade.</b> Enjoy unlimited storage, viewing, and downloading of full-resolution files. \$4.99 per month or \$49.99 per year			\$4.99 per month or \$49.99 per year		\$4.99 per month or \$49.99 per year	

<sup>\*</sup> Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



#### ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

# Digital Camera Lenses

# What is the importance of the millimeter measurement on a lens?

A This indicates the focal length of the lens, which is the distance from the lens to the camera's sensor. Lenses that are 35mm or less will widen your view and exaggerate the scene by stretching the perspective, while lenses that are 70mm or more will compress a scene so that distant objects seem closer.

#### What is a kit lens?

A kit lens is a starter lens that's bundled with a D-SLR camera. Generally, a kit lens offers a good focal length range so you can use it in a variety of situations.

## What is the purpose of a telephoto lens?

A lt enlarges faraway objects so you can get closeup photos of subjects, such as wildlife or people playing sports, that might not be otherwise possible. The compressed perspective also means that there's a shorter depth of field, so it will be crisper on the subjects in focus.

## What is the purpose of a macro lens?

Amacro lenses allow a camera to sharply focus on objects that are close to the lens. They also improve the magnification capabilities of a camera.

# What does a millimeter range mean on a zoom lens?

The range indicates the span of perspectives the lens can provide. For example, a telephoto lens with a range of 70mm to 200mm could take you from a moderately magnified view to an extremely enlarged scene.

## What is a prime lens?

A prime, or fixed, lens doesn't have zoom capabilities. It offers one perspective, so you'll need to move with the camera to frame the scene the way you want, but a prime lens will generally produce a crisper picture than a zoom lens.

## What is the purpose of a wide-angle lens?

It offers the opposite results of a telephoto lens because nearby objects appear larger than life and faraway subjects look smaller. It's ideal for shooting expansive landscape shots, such as horizons. A wide-angle lens also lets you include more in a scene, so it's easier to fit groups into a single frame.

# Why should I know the aperture rating of a zoom lens?

The smaller the aperture, the less of your photo will be in focus; the bigger the aperture, the more of your photo will be in focus. Zoom lenses often feature a range of maximum apertures, which express the max apertures for widest and narrowest focal lengths. Lower apertures allow for better photos in low light.

















# Digital Imaging Glossary

Wondering what all of that lingo on camera boxes means? Use this glossary to help decode the world of digital imaging.

aperture—An iris-like diaphragm opening that can expand and contract the lens to let you control the amount of light that passes through it, thus affecting the exposure. The term "f-stop" can be used interchangeably with aperture.

burst mode—A camera mode that will let you capture several shots consecutively after pressing the shutter only one time.

CCD—A charge-coupled device is a type of image-sensing component. It converts light into energy that can be stored as digital data on your camera.

depth of field—The area that is in focus in front of and beyond the subject of your photo.

digital zoom-Magnifies an image digitally by cropping it and filling in the rest with interpolated pixels, thus degrading the quality. Even if the numbers are impressive, never choose a camera based on digital zoom.

f-stop—See aperture. Smaller f-stop numbers mean a wider lens opening; larger f-stop numbers mean a narrower lens opening.

ISO—For digital cameras, the ISO setting measures the sensitivity to light (similar to how it does with film). Digital camera ISO settings, such as 200, 400, and up, should capture photos as if one were using film with such a speed. Lower ISO settings mean you need more light and vice versa.

LCD—The screen on the back of the camera that lets you see a live-action view of your subject or your photo after you've taken it.

**lens**—The apparatus on the front of the camera that gathers and directs light toward the image sensor. In a digital camera, the lens likely has both an optical and digital zoom.

megapixel—Approximately 1 million pixels. The higher the megapixel count, the higher the resolution and the more you can crop, which means (in general) betterquality photos.

memory card—Because digital cameras have very little onboard memory, they need flash memory cards to store more than a dozen or so images. The type of memory card you need depends on the make and model of your camera. Some of the most popular memory cards are Secure Digital, MultiMedia Card, Compact Flash, and Sony Memory Sticks. In general, memory cards are quite small.

noise—The small statistical variations among pixels that lead to (usually) minor distortions of color in a photo.

optical zoom—The camera's mechanical ability to move the lens physically closer to your subject. With optical zoom, the higher the number (such as 5X or 10X), the better. When choosing a camera, always consider the optical zoom, not the digital zoom. Digital zoom artificially adds pixels.

resolution—The number of pixels in an image. The higher the resolution, the more detail and quality in a photo. Resolution is measured in a proportion (such as 2,272 x 1,704).

shutter-A mechanism that opens and closes to allow light to pass through the lens. You can usually control the camera's shutter speed.

shutter speed—The length of time a camera's shutter is open to let light through the lens and hit the sensor, which records the image. This is expressed in fractions of a second: For instance, a shutter speed of 1/250 means that the shutter is open for 1/250th of a second.

viewfinder—The small opening in the camera that the user looks through to frame a shot. Some digital cameras don't have a viewfinder and only use the camera's LCD to frame the shot.

white balance—Light levels are adjusted electronically to ensure whites in a certain environment are pure, leading to more lifelike colors. White balance can usually be manually adjusted, too.



# Which Point-&-Shoot Camera Is Best For You?

If you're a little confused about the most important features in a digital camera, you're not alone. In this chart, we compare features from select digital cameras, and we also explain what these features mean.

			Resolution; Optical zoom	Shutter speed	Memory card	LCD size	Battery life	ISO	Movie mode
		What It Means	More pixels mean bigger and clearer prints; Moves the lens closer to your subject	A faster shutter speed will let you snap ac- tion photos without blur	Removable card that stores your photos in your camera	The LCD is the screen on the back of the camera	Based on how many shots you can take on a single charge	A higher ISO lets you take better photos in low-light settings	Lets you re- cord short video clips on your dig- ital camera
GALLAU (	F. S.	Canon PowerShot A2200 MSRP: \$139.99* SKU 2044186	14.1MP; 4X	1 to 1/1,600 second	SD/SDHC/ SDXC/MMC/ MMC Plus/ HC MMC Plus	2.7 inches	280 shots	Auto; Manual: 80 to 1600	Yes
CONTINUE (III)		Olympus VG-140 MSRP: \$139.99* SKU 2207069	14MP; 5X	1/2 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	3 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80 to 1600	Yes
The second secon		Fujifilm FinePix T200 MSRP: \$179.95* SKU 2421058	14MP; 10X	1/4 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC	2.7 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 100 to 3200	Yes
EAMSUNG		Samsung SH100 MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 1987057	14MP; 5X	1 to 1/2,000 second	microSD/ microSDHC	3 inches	N/A	Auto; Manual: 80 to 3200	Yes
SONY	<u></u>	Sony Cyber-shot WX9 MSRP: \$219.99* SKU 2061086	16.2MP; 5X	2 to 1/1,600 seconds	Memory Stick Duo/PRO Duo/PRO HG-Duo/SD/ SDHC/SDXC	3 inches	210 shots	Auto; Manual: 100 to 3200	Yes
Contra		<b>Canon PowerShot</b> <b>300 HS</b> MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 2044043	12.1MP; 5X	1 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC/ SDXC/MMC/ MMC Plus/ HC MMC Plus	2.7 inches	220 shots	Auto; Manual: 100 to 3200	Yes
LUMIX ID		Panasonic Lumix Z58 MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 2061031	14.1MP; 16X	60 to 1/4,000 seconds	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	3 inches	340 shots	Auto; Manual: 100 to 1600	Yes
Niken 15		Nikon Coolpix 59100 MSRP: \$329.95* SKU 1977039	12.1MP; 18X	1 to 1/2,000 second	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	3 inches	270 shots	Auto; Manual: 160 to 3200	Yes

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



# Which Interchangeable Lens Camera Is Best For You?

As D-SLR prices keep coming down and more compact system cameras are becoming available, more photographers are turning to them, both as a first camera and as a trade-up to something better. In this chart, we'll help you sort through some of the features and performance specs of select interchangeable lens cameras.

			Resolution	LCD size	ISO range	Kit lens	Burst speed	Shutter speed
		What It Means	Image sensor in megapixels; more means a bigger image	Diagonal measurement of the screen on the back of the camera	A higher ISO range will let you take better photos in low- light situations	Standard lens bundled with the camera body	Frames per second (fps) you can shoot while in burst mode	The wider the range, the greater the gamu of long exposures to frozen action
		<b>Nikon Coolpix L120</b> MSRP: \$279.95* SKU 2049039	14.1MP	3 inches	80 to 6400	4.5-94.5mm f/3.1-5.8	As many as 19 shots at 0.7fps	1 to 1/1,000 second (Auto); 1/60 to 1/4,000 second (Continuous)
ameras		Olympus PEN E-PL1 MSRP: \$499.99* SKU 9769158	12.3MP	2.7 inches	200 to 3200	14-42mm f/3.5-5.6	3fps	60 to 1/2,000 seconds
System Cameras		<b>Samsung NX100</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 1551148	14.6MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	20-50mm f3.5-5.6	3fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
		<b>Sony NEX-3</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 1599022	14.2MP	3 inches	200 to 12800	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	7fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
, a	ENTAX	Pentax K-r MSRP: \$749.95* SKU 1627099	12.4MP	3 inches	100 to 12800	18-55mm	6fps	30 to 1/6,000 seconds
		<b>Sony A55</b> MSRP: \$849.99* SKU 1598997	16.2MP	3 inches	100 to 12800	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	10fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
30		<b>Nikon D5100</b> MSRP: \$899.95* SKU 1989073	16.2MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	18-55mm	4fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds
Can		Canon EOS Rebel T3i MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 1987075	18MP	3 inches	100 to 6400	18-55mm f/3.5-5.6	3.7fps	30 to 1/4,000 seconds

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# Which Digital Camcorder Is Best For You?

Digital camcorders come in a number of formats: DVD, hard drive, flash drive, MiniDV, and high definition are the most common. By comparing the following digital camcorders, you can determine which recording format and product best fits your style.

			LCD size	Optical zoom; Digital zoom	Recording speeds	Memory card	Digital still resolution	Lines of resolution
		What It Means	Diagonal length of viewing screen	Two methods for magnifying depth of field; optical zoom is better	The speeds a particular camcorder can utilize during recording	Compatible flash card types (cards not included unless noted)	The number of megapixels the camcorder can capture in still images	Number of lines of horizontal resolution; the higher the num- ber, the greater the detail
0		Sony Handycam DCR-SX85 MSRP: \$279.99* SKU 2009041	3 inches	60X; 2,000X	HQ/SP/LP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC/Memory Stick PRO Duo	N/A	480
		Canon FS31 MSRP: \$329.99* SKU 9739449	2.7 inches	37X; 2,000X	XP/SP/LP	SD/SDHC	0.45MP	480
Flash Drive		Samsung H300 MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 2052403	3 inches	30X; 300X	Super Fine/Fine/ Normal	SD/SDHC	4.9MP	1,080
Flash		<b>Panasonic</b> <b>HDC-TM90K</b> MSRP: \$599.99* SKU 2051186	3 inches	21X; 60X	HA/HG/HX/HE	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	5MP	1,080
	Comma HD	Canon VIXIA HF M40 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU 2088371	3 inches	10X; 200X	MPX/FXP/XP+/ SP/LP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	2.07MP	1,080
0	)	Sony Handycam HDR-PJ10 MSRP: \$699.99* SKU N/A	3 inches	30X; 350X	PS/FX/FH/ HQ/LP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC/Memory Stick PRO Duo	3.3MP	1,080
Hard Drive		<b>JVC Everio GZ-HD500</b> MSRP: \$549* SKU 9731941	2.7 inches	20X; 200X	UXP/XP/SP/EP	SD/SDHC	2MP	1,080
Hard	P	Panasonic SDR-H100K MSRP: \$349.99* SKU 2009236	2.7 inches	70X; 3,500X	XP/SP/LP	SD/SDHC/ SDXC	0.3MP	480

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# Which FUJIFILM FinePix Camera Fits Your Lifestyle?

Everyone captures and shares their images differently. This is why Fujifilm's (www.everypicturematters.com) fline of FinePix digital cameras has a model to suit every need and to ensure a photo op is never missed.



Product Name SKU	<b>JV200</b> 2088431	<b>JX310</b> 2034311	<b>Z90</b> 2031031	<b>T200</b> 2421058	<b>XP20</b> 2031059	<b>S2950</b> 2293301	<b>XP30</b> 2281084
Additional Available Colors	THE TOTAL STATE OF THE PARTY OF	Time of the state	2420129 2420147 2420138 2420165	THE REPORT OF THE PARTY OF THE	2420253 2420165 2420174		
MSRP*	\$99.95	\$109.95	\$169.95	\$179.95	\$199.95	\$229.95	\$239.95
Where To Buy	Online only	In stores and online	Black: In stores; All colors: online	Online only	Silver: In stores; All colors: online	Online only	Online only
Megapixels	14MP	14MP	14MP	14MP	14MP	14MP	14MP
Zoom	3X optical	5X optical	5X optical	10X optical	5X optical	18X optical	5X optical
Wide-Angle Lens		✓ 28mm	✓ 28mm folded lens	✓ 28mm-280mm equivalent	✓ 28mm folded lens	✓ 28mm-504mm equivalent	✓ 28mm folded lens
LCD Size	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches with wide Touch Panel	2.7 inches	2.7 inches	3 inches with Electronic Viewfinder	2.7 inches
HD Movie	<b>✓</b> 720p	<b>✓</b> 720p	✓ 720p & Onetouch dual shutter	<b>✓</b> 720p	✓ 720p & Onetouch dual shutter	✓ 720p & HDMI out	✓ 720p & One-touch dual shutter
Face Detection with Auto Red-Eye Correction	V	<b>V</b>	V	✓ with Face Recognition	V	V	<b>V</b>
Image Stabilization	Digital IS	Digital IS	Digital IS	Dual IS (CCD Shift)	Dual IS (CCD Shift)	Dual IS (CCD Shift)	Dual IS (CCD Shift)
Tracking Auto Focus	<b>~</b>	V	✓ Touch & Track	~	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>~</b>
Memory Card	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC	SD/SDHC
Battery Type	Li-lon Rechargeable	Li-lon Rechargeable	Li-lon Rechargeable	Li-lon Rechargeable	Li-lon Rechargeable	Four AA	Li-lon Rechargeable
Waterproof Shockproof, Freezeproof, Dustproof	No	No	No	No	WP: 16.5 feet SP: 5 feet FP: 14°F Dustproof	No	WP: 16.5 feet SP: 5 feet FP: 14°F Dustproof
Metal Chassis	<b>✓</b>	<b>v</b>	<b>✓</b>	✓ 18.5mm thick	<b>✓</b>		~
Facebook & YouTube	✓ Tag and upload	✓ Tag and upload	✓ Tag and upload	✓ Tag and upload	✓ Tag and upload	✓ Tag and upload	✓ Tag and upload
Additional Features	Panorama Mode, Smile Shutter, Blink Detection, Dual Shot mode, Ergonomic Controls	Panorama Mode, Smile Shutter, Blink Detection, Dual Shot mode, Mode Dial	Tap & Shoot, Touch & Tracking AF, Successive Movie Mode	Smile Shutter, Blink Detection, Dual Shot Mode, Mode Dial	Reinforced lens cover, rubberized traction grip	Smile Shutter, Blink, Detection, Tracking AF, Panorama Mode, Zoom Bracketing, instant zoom	Reinforced lens cover, GPS geo- tracking, rubber- ized traction grip
Perfect For	Basic photographers looking for ease-of-use and an ultra-slim metal chassis.	Everyday photographers who want a little more zoom and an ultra-thin metal chassis.	Trend-savvy users who want to look good while taking great pictures.	On-the-go photographers who need long zoom capabilities that fit in their pocket.	Active families or individuals who want a camera to use anywhere, anytime in any condition—even 16.5ft. underwater.	Outdoor or sports photographers who want long zoom capabilities to get up close and an SLR-styled camera.	Active users who want 4-way protection with GPS to track, log, and find off the map photo ops.

<sup>\*</sup> Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



## NOTEWORTHY\_\_\_\_\_

# Accessories & Services

Prices for digital camcorders and cameras continue to fall as their video and picture quality improves, which is especially good news for first-time buyers or those looking to upgrade. Pairing your new camcorder or camera with the right products will bring you better photography results. Here are some must-have accessories you should consider buying to get the most out of your digital imaging device.



#### **UV FILTER**

- Protects digital camcorder and D-SLR lenses from dust, dirt, fingerprints, and scratches
- Helps you get clearer, more detailed results when you're shooting in bright conditions



#### **MEMORY CARDS**

- Keep spare memory cards on hand so you can snap away without having to worry about running out of storage space
- Consider having several memory cards with smaller capacities instead of one card with a larger capacity; that way, if something goes wrong with one card, you'll still have a backup
- For your digital camcorder, keep more recording media in your bag than you think you'll need, just in case



## ADDITIONAL LENSES & CONVERTER LENSES

- Extra lenses for D-SLRs and converter lenses for digital camcorders can enhance your results by extending your field of view, reducing glare, adding 3D, and more
- Telephoto lenses enable you to zoom in from far away, wide-angle lenses give you the ability to get a full view even if you're close to the subject, and macro lenses will let you achieve up-close, detailed shots of your photo subject



#### **EXTERNAL FLASH**

- Light up your subjects from greater distances
- Offers better control of lighting conditions when taking photos by directing the angle of the flash



## SPARE BATTERIES & CHARGERS

- Make sure you're never caught without the power needed to capture the perfect moment
- Whether your camera uses proprietary batteries or AAs, keep at least one fully charged spare or set in your camera bag
- An additional battery charger will give you the flexibility to power up your camera batteries anywhere you're headed, even if you're traveling



#### **TRIPOD**

- Tripods are an easy way to ensure steady video footage
- Pan while recording video in one smooth motion
- Use a tripod and your camera's timer to get a picture of the entire group without needing someone to man the camera
- Keeps your camera steady while you're shooting closeup or distance shots, which can prevent photo blurring



#### **REMOTE SWITCH**

- A longer cable lets you snap photos without having to touch the camera, which can also reduce camera shake
- May enable the user to lock the shutter for longer exposure times



# DIGITAL IMAGING SERVICES

Once you've set your sights on the camera or camcorder you want, consider taking advantage of the digital imaging services offered by your local CE retailer. Not only can you protect your investment, but you can also discover photography and videography skills that will make your photos and videos picture-perfect.

- D-SLR or Camcorder Service Plan
- D-SLR Training Course
- Camcorder Training
   Course

# Brother Laser Solutions

# **Compact Laser Printers For Small Offices**

When it comes to choosing a printer for your home or small office, a laser printer is the way to go. Prints are created quickly often 20 pages a minute or more—and text is crisper and clearer than what an inkjet or photo printer can produce. Even better, a laser printer can generate thousands of pages before its toner cartridge needs to be replaced. Brother (www.brother-usa.com) offers a variety of laser printers to suit your small business or home office needs. The following laser models are a tremendous value because Brother packs them with the bells and whistles you need to get the job done right, all for an exceptional price.

> HL-2270DW With Wireless Networking and Duplex

\$149.99



Brother HL-2230 Compact, Personal Laser Printer | \$119.99

MFC-7360N Laser All-In-One with Networking | \$199.99 HL-3070CW Digital Color Printer With Wireless Networking | \$299.99



MFC-7860DW Laser All-In-One with Wireless Networking and Duplex Printing | \$299.99

#### A Brother Laser Printer For Every Need

Brother's printer lineup includes two new laser All-in-Ones. Designed for small offices, the MFC-7360N and MFC-7860DW offer printing, copying, scanning, and faxing in one spacesaving design. Plus, they feature built-in networking to share with multiple users and fast print speeds to help save you time.

	HL-2230	HL-2270DW	HL-3070CW	MFC-7360N	MFC-7860DW
SKU:	1148527	1148536	9536433	1773123	1773202
Monochrome or Color	Mono	Mono	Mono or Color	Mono	Mono
Functions	Print	Print	Print	Print/Copy/ Scan/Fax	Print/Copy/ Scan/Fax
<b>Duplex Printing</b>		<b>✓</b>			<b>v</b>
<b>Print Speed</b>	24ppm	27ppm	17ppm	24ppm	27ppm
Networking		✓ (wired & wireless)	✓ (wired & wireless)	✓ (wired)	✓ (wired & wireless)



Brother's award-winning printers can be found at Best Buy and Bestbuy.com.

FirstGlimpse

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# Sony VAIO L Series All-In-One Touchscreen PCs

# Wave Hello To The Next Big Thing

All-in-one computers appear to come from a sci-fi world—these sleek systems have big, bright, crisp screens without a bulky computer tower to be found. The Sony L Series VAIO All-In-One Touchscreen PCs (starting at \$1,199.99; www.sony.com) are no different. They offer cutting-edge technologies that give you easy access to your favorite Web sites and multimedia.

Sony L Series VAIO All-In-One Touchscreen PCs Starting at \$1,199.99 | www.sony.com

#### **Media Mavens**

The Sony VAIO VPCL212, VPCL214, and VPCL216 PCs all have 24-inch Full HD displays, an Intel Core i5 or i7 processor, 4GB or 6GB of DDR3 memory, and massive 1TB hard drives for ample storage. Along with a wireless keyboard and mouse, they sport plenty of connectionsone HDMI input and output, three USB 2.0 and two USB 3.0 ports, and one slot each for Memory Stick and SD memory cards. The VPCL214 and VPCL216 also include a Blu-ray Disc player, and the VPCL216 has a TV tuner, meaning it can double as a TV and a computer.



# **Flexibility**

The HDMI input and output on all of the VAIO L Series PCs opens the door to several HD entertainment options. Whether you choose to connect your game console, Blu-ray Disc player, or another HD device with an HDMI output, you'll be able to watch plenty of HD content using the computer.

# Reach Out & Touch Something

Using action buttons, you can control the display, volume, and Web functionality. You can also flick, pinch, twist, and tap items on the VAIO's screen to perform tasks such as accessing, scrolling, zooming, and rotating content.

#### Take Control With Motion

In addition to a variety of touch-based tools, the Sony VAIO L Series PCs also boast touch-free capabilities. Sony's Gesture Control allows you to control media playback simply by moving your hands within the built-in HD Web cam's view. Using Gesture Control, you can browse through photos or navigate a music collection—it's definitely a user experience you have to see to believe.

# HOW TO BUY

# Products For Video Chat

# A/V Hardware For Online Conversations



Video chat software and hardware makes it possible for you to see and hear friends and family in real time, even if they live across the country. There are a number of products that are designed to deliver optimum audio and video during your chat sessions. Here's what to look for when shopping for video chat solutions.

Notebook Web cams. If you travel often, consider buying a laptop that has a built-in Web cam. Some notebook models feature an embedded Web cam centered above the notebook screen and include an integrated microphone. In addition to capturing video, you can also take still images using these Web cams, so you can email your dad a photo of your dorm room when you're studying abroad in Germany.

PC audio systems. It can be difficult to hear the person you are video chatting with through small

PC tower speakers or the speakers on your notebook. Adding a high-quality PC speaker system can greatly amplify the audio from your video chat conversation.

. . . greatly amplify the audio from your video chat . . .

# High-definition Web cam. An HD

Web cam captures video in high resolutions, such

as 1,280 x 720 or 1,920 x 1,080, so people you're chatting with can see you clearly. Some high-quality models offer autofocus, and some come with

Some high-quality models offer autofocus...

software that applies color filters and other effects to enhance your video chat session. An HD Web cam is a great tool for your teenage daughter who likes to personalize her video chat experience with her girlfriends.

# PC headsets and microphones. A

PC headset, which combines headphones and an attached microphone, lets you listen to your chat partner in privacy (primarily with over-the-ear styles), but also reduces disruptions by blocking outside noises. A noisecanceling microphone, whether it's part of a headset or a standalone model, minimizes background noise as you speak into the microphone.

BY JOANNA CLAY

The Benefits Of Wireless N

Wi-Fi For The HD Media Era

If you've purchased a device with a screen and/or a video output lately, there's a good chance it also connects to the Internet. High-quality media streaming is a big draw; you'd be hard pressed to find a consumer electronics category that's not getting in on the action. But to stream that media smoothly over Wi-Fi, you need a fast and reliable connection; you need a router with Wireless N (802.11n).

MIMO (Multiple Input/Multiple Output). This router technology utilizes multiple antennas to simultaneously send and receive data, which lets you access streaming media, whenever and wherever you happen to be in your home, without a glitch.

**Faster.** Wireless N networks can sustain a theoretical maximum data rate of up to 300Mbps, which is an impressive increase over 802.11b/g's theoretical 54MBps data rate. With Wireless N, you'll feel like the HD movie you're streaming is taking place right in your living room.

Better range. Wireless N devices have effective ranges of up to 300 feet, which is a far cry from 802.11g's best-case 150-foot range. But even if you're not trying to deliver Wi-Fi access to everyone on your block, Wireless N's superior range means the connected BD (Blu-ray Disc) player in the downstairs man-cave, the smart TV in the upstairs family room, and all notebooks and smartphones in the bedrooms share equal access to high-quality media, on demand.

# Why Dual-Band Is Better

Some Wireless N network routers are capable of supporting simultaneous device connections using two separate wireless radios, one operating at 2.4GHz and the other operating at 5GHz. These dual-band routers can handle data between older 802.11b/g devices on the 2.4GHz frequency, but reserve the 5GHz band for 802.11n devices, which require higher data rates. The 5GHz band is also less likely to suffer from interference. If you want the pinnacle of performance and range, get a dual-band Wireless N router.

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN

# Intel Processors For Moms, Dads & Grads

# Give The Gift Of 2nd Generation **Core Processing Power**

The 2nd Generation Intel Core processors (www.intel .com) offer capabilities that any mom, dad, or graduate would appreciate. Intel's latest processors have an increased baseline of performance and energy efficiency while offering a variety of powerful technologies that are a step up from the ones found in Intel's 1st Generation Core lineup to help the mom, dad, or grad in your life make short work of computing tasks. For example, Hyper-Threading allows each core in the processor to handle two tasks simultaneously, and Turbo Boost 2.0 gives an even faster burst of speed to Core i5 and i7 processors when it's needed.



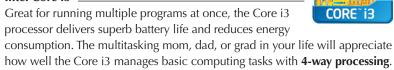
#### **Next-Level Visuals**

Any computer with a 2nd Generation Intel Core processor can deliver a stunning, seamless visual experience, thanks to the processor's advanced built-in imaging technologies.

- Intel Clear Video HD Technology enhances sharpness and color, delivers lifelike audio and video, and even extends battery life when you're enjoying 3D and HD playback.
- Intel Quick Sync Technology's hardware acceleration makes creating video much faster, significantly reducing the time it takes to edit, burn, and share your creations.
- Intel HD Graphics has built-in performance for mainstream gaming and provides stunning graphics for all your entertainment needs.

# A Processor For Everyone

• Intel Core i3



• Intel Core i5

Anyone in need of a high-performance processor that will handle numerous applications simultaneously can count on the 4-way processing and Turbo Boost technology the Core i5 has to offer. So if, for example, your dad is the media creator in the family or a casual or moderate gamer, the Core i5 is perfect for him.



(intel) inside

• Intel Core i7

The Core i7 is ideal for projects that require high-performance graphics and intensive multitasking. Thanks to 8-way processing and Turbo Boost technology, the Core i7 can easily handle the heavy workload of a parent or recent graduate with school or professional projects while also keeping up with the performance demands of gamers.





# Protect & Personalize

# PC Theft Defense & AppUp

## **PC Theft Defense**

With PC Theft Defense
Service, powered by Intel
Anti-Theft Technology,
which is built into select
2nd Generation Intel
Core processors,
a stolen or lost
laptop can be
shut down and
rendered useless
to thieves. So you
can be sure your
mobile assets are
protected. If your

laptop is lost or



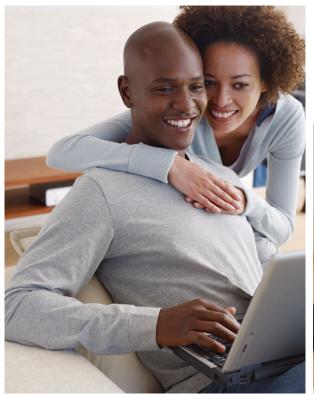
stolen, you can deliver a "poison pill" that will turn the laptop into an inoperable brick, so no one can access the sensitive data on your machine. And when you get the laptop back, restoring it is as simple as using a password or single-use token. Select Blue Label laptops from Best Buy include three years of PC Theft Defense Service at no extra charge.



# Intel AppUp center

With Intel's AppUp center (www.bestbuy.com/appup), netbook users will find scores of apps that were built to take advantage of the advanced capabilities of their netbook's Atom processor. Just like a smartphone app store, the Intel AppUp center gives you a place to search for and download apps to customize a netbook to match your needs. You can search for apps or browse by categories, including Staff Picks, What's Hot, and New Releases. Apps can be tried out for 24 hours before committing to a purchase. From one of today's most popular smartphone apps, Angry Birds, to classics such as Pac-Man, the Intel AppUp center has you covered.





# **Share Content From A Laptop On An HDTV**

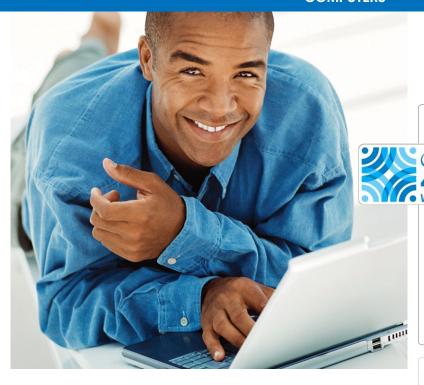
# Intel Wireless Display



Intel Wireless Display, also known as WiDi, is a technology built into the 2nd Generation Intel Core processors. This ingenious technology allows a notebook user to display what he sees on his notebook screen on the biggest screen in his home—the HDTV—with great image clarity and amazing sound. Sharing content from your notebook to your HDTV is as easy as clicking a button, so there's no need for family and friends to crowd around the laptop to view your favorite media.



You won't need to hunt down a cable and string it from the laptop to the back or side of an HDTV or play with display settings. Instead, the setup consists of simply connecting a Wireless Display receiver to an HDTV, starting the pre-installed Intel Wireless Display program, and clicking a Connect button. When you choose a laptop with Intel's Wireless Display, it's simple to show off photos and videos of a recent graduation ceremony to loved ones on a big screen or stream online video, such as from Netflix or YouTube, all from your laptop.



# Intel 4G WiMAX

# **Built-In Connectivity On The Go**

Whether you're editing documents saved in the cloud, updating your social-networking profile, or videoconferencing on a park bench, Intel's high-speed 4G WiMAX wireless networking technology lets you connect to the Web all around town. Plus, 4G WiMAX will transmit data four times faster than 3G connectivity. Go beyond the limited range of Wi-Fi with a 4G WiMAX embedded notebook.

# **Buy Embedded & Get Connected**

4G WiMAX is built into a variety of laptops. In fact, nearly every Intel Core-based laptop available at Best Buy has 4G WiMAX built in. Choosing a notebook with 4G WiMAX means you won't have to worry about carrying around, and possibly losing or breaking, extra hardware such as a USB dongle or mobile hotspot. Take a look at the accompanying chart to find a model with this technology built right in.

Along with a 4G WiMAX laptop, you'll need to purchase a subscription from a service provider. For instance, Best Buy Connect offers unlimited 4G WiMAX mobile broadband plans for \$45 per month. See www .bestbuyconnect.com for plan details.

# **Everyday Benefits Of WiMAX**

WiMAX is ideal for all types of users seeking a fast, bandwidth-capable wireless connection. With high-speed mobile broadband you can:

- Access email quickly from more places
- Place a Voice-over-IP phone call to family and friends
- Stream hiccup-free audio and video
- Download music in a hurry
- Simultaneously maintain video, audio, and voice connections

# Intel Wireless Display- & 4G WiMAX-Capable Notebooks

	4G WiMAX	Intel Wireless Display
Asus U52F-BBG6	<b>V</b>	<b>/</b>
Dell I14R-1296TMR	<b>V</b>	
Dell I14R-1296PBL	<b>V</b>	
Dell I14R-1296LPK	<b>/</b>	
Samsung RV511-A01	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>
HP DV6-3225DX	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Toshiba A665-S5170	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Sony VPCEB42FM	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Toshiba R835-25*	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Sony VPCEA46FM	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Toshiba M645-S4110	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Samsung SF410-A01	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
HP DM4-1265DX	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Toshiba M645-S4114	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Asus U43F-BBA6	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Samsung QX410-S02	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
HP DV7-4285DX	<b>/</b>	
Dell i15R-2728MRB	<b>V</b>	
Sony VPCEB47GM	<b>/</b>	<b>V</b>
Toshiba A665-3DV10*	<b>V</b>	
Sony VPCF131FM	<b>/</b>	
Toshiba A665-S6100*	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>
Asus G73SW-BST6*	<b>V</b>	
Samsung RC512-S01*	<b>V</b>	<b>V</b>
*2nd Gen Core PCs	1	1

# ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

# Remote Printing

#### Are some printers better/easier for remote printing than others?

Any wireless-compatible printer will be a bit easier to Aconnect to, as will network-enabled printers that can connect directly to your home router. This is because it won't matter if the remote computer itself is available, as long as the wireless network is active.

# Can I print from my mobile devices?

Usually, yes. There are remote printing apps available for most mobile devices. Once you install one, you'll need to configure the remote printer to accept print jobs sent by that app. Some device operating systems allow remote printing to specific compatible printers on a nearby wireless network with no additional app or printer setup required.

## Can I use my notebook to print at home through my wireless network?

Yes, as long as the printer is installed to the network or to a networked computer that then shares the printer.

# What are these ePrinters I've been hearing about?

An ePrinter is a network-enabled printer that's designed to allow remote devices to connect to it. This normally means subscribing to a free service that forwards documents (often via email) from your remote device to the approved printer.

# When on the road with my laptop, can I print to a printer back at my office?

Yes, as long as you have a compatible ePrinter or you've installed the appropriate utility on your laptop and configured the office printer to accept remote print jobs.

# Can I turn my hardwired printer into a Wi-Fi compatible printer and then remote print to it?

Many printer manufacturers offer add-on wireless devices that connect to your printer and turn it into a wireless printer.

# On the road, can I print to a printer at a nearby business and then pick up my printout?

You can often send print jobs to compatible printers at hotels and print/delivery shops if you have an application designed for that purpose or if you're set up to forward print jobs to a nearby ePrinter. As such services become more popular, you'll be seeing more and more Web sites and Web apps that include ePrint icons to make it easier for you to ePrint documents.

# Can I use Google to send documents to a re-

Google's Cloud Print service allows you to send a document to any connected and correctly configured printer, no matter where it is located. This requires that you use Google's Chrome browser.

















# Computing Glossary

Shopping for a computer can be intimidating, especially with all of the complex terminology. Here, we'll explain some common computer jargon.

**Bluetooth**—A short-range wireless standard that connects devices such as computers, printers, headsets, and digital cameras so they can be used together without being connected physically with a cord.

**broadband**—Network connections that transmit high-speed Internet access. Broadband speed varies depending on the provider. Cable companies offer speeds of around 8 to 11Mbps, whereas phone companies offer DSL, which supports speeds of 3 to 5Mbps.

CRT (cathode-ray tube)—An old analog display technology for TVs and computer monitors. It features an electron gun illuminating phosphor dots that line the inside of a glass tube. When the phosphors are lit, they display on-screen images. CRTs consume a great deal of power and are heavy and bulky. Many CRTs support digital signals, though these degrade when converted to analog.

**dual-core processor**—This integrated circuit, which controls the computer,

features two processors, each with its own cache, on a single die or chassis. In a dual-core configuration, the operating system has two processors to handle instructions, speeding up the computer and its ability to multitask.

**Ethernet**—A widely used LAN protocol in which computers and networks are physically linked with a cord.

firewall—Hardware or software that limits access by a network or another outside source to your computer; it also may limit your computer's access to the network. These security measures are designed to protect your computer from outsiders who'd like to exploit it in some way. By the same token, firewalls may prevent infected files on your computer from accessing the larger network and spreading the problem to other users.

LAN (local-area network)—A group of computers that are physically connected by wires so they can communicate with one another and share information.

LCD (liquid-crystal display)—This technology sandwiches liquid crystals between thin sheets of glass. The crystals twist and untwist to allow and block light from a backlight, forming the images you see. LCDs are thinner, lighter, and consume less power than CRTs. Initially used mostly in notebook PCs,

you'll now find LCD TVs and computer monitors, and they are also in digital cameras, cell phones, portable DVD players, and other devices.

office suite—Productivity software, such as Microsoft Office, StarOffice, and OpenOffice, that often includes word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, database, and financial tools.

**operating system**—The software, such as Windows Vista, Windows 7, or Mac OS X, that controls a computer and its peripherals and serves as the primary interface for the users.

**processor**—Also known as a microprocessor or the CPU, this integrated circuit controls the computer.

**RAM** (random-access memory)—A type of memory that's read from and written to by the CPU and hardware.

upgradeable—This term refers to the ability to add or swap out hardware to boost a computer's performance, increase its speed, or replace a defective or obsolete device or component. For instance, you may add more memory, replace an old CRT with a widescreen LCD, or swap out an older video card for a newer one that features an ATSC TV tuner so you can watch digital TV on your computer. Look for a computer with expansion slots or empty bays.

# Which Laptop Computer Is Best For You?

A laptop computer is a pretty big purchase for most people, and it's usually a bit overwhelming, too. This chart compares the features and specs from several different types of laptop models.

	Operating system	Processor	Hard drive size; RAM	Graphics Card	Dimensions; Weight	Optical drives; Media card reader
What It Means	The software (usually Windows or Mac OS X) that controls your computer	Chip that controls the computer (typically, a bigger number is better)	How much data the computer can hold; Memory that's read and written to	Controls the quality of your video and images	Height x width x depth; How much the lap- top weighs; Screen size	Drives that can read and write discs; Slots that read media cards without a separate peripheral
<b>Dell Inspiron IM5030-1920OBK</b> MSRP: \$379.99* SKU 2194046	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.3GHz AMD Athlon II X2	320GB; 3GB	ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4250	1.6x14.9x9.7 inches; 5.6 pounds; 15.6 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
<b>Lenovo IdeaPad Z565-43113LU</b> MSRP: \$429.99* SKU 2171094	Windows 7 Home Premium	3GHz AMD Phenom II	320GB; 3GB	ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4270	1.4x14.8x9.8 inches; 5.7 pounds; 15.6 inches	DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
HP Pavilion G7-1075DX MSRP: \$499.99* SKU 2285026	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.6GHz AMD Phenom II	500GB; 4GB	ATI Mobility Radeon HD 4250	1.4x10.6x16.2 inches; 6.1 pounds; 17.3 inches	DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
Sony VAIO VPCEA46FM/V MSRP: \$799.99* SKU 1892035	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.53GHz Intel Core i3	640GB; 4GB	Intel HD	1.1x13.6x9.4 inches; 5.2 pounds; 14 inches	DVD±RW/Blu-ray Disc/CD-RW; Yes
Toshiba Satellite M645-S4114 MSRP: \$819.99* SKU 1850058	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.66GHz Intel Core i5	640GB; 4GB	Mobile Intel HD	1.4x13.3x9 inches; 5.4 pounds; 14 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/Blu-ray Disc/CD-RW; Yes
Sony VAIO VPCF131FM MSRP: \$899.99* SKU 1861115	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.66GHz Intel Core i5	750GB; 4GB	Nvidia GeForce 310M	1.6x15.3x10.4 inches; 6.4 pounds; 16.4 inches	DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
Asus G53SW-BST6 MSRP: \$1,099.99* SKU 2043071	Windows 7 Home Premium	2.3GHz Intel Core i5	750GB; 4GB	Nvidia GTX 460M	2x15.4x11.7 inches; 8.1 pounds; 15.6 inches	Double-layer DVD±RW/CD-RW; Yes
Samsung 900X3A- A03 MSRP: \$1,599.99* SKU 2235309	Windows 7 Home Premium	1.4GHz Intel Core i5	128GB (SSD); 4GB	Intel HD GT2	0.6x12.9x8.9 inches; 2.9 pounds; 13.3 inches	N/A; Yes

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



# Which Tablet Is Best For You?

Tablets offer many of the same productivity capabilities that laptops do, but these compact, light devices are more portable, and you can customize many of them with apps the same way you would a smartphone. To find the tablet that fits your needs, here's a comparison of the latest models.

		Platform	Internal Storage	Connectivity	Battery Life	Dimensions; Weight	Ports; Media card reader
	What It Means	The software that controls a tablet	How much data the tablet can hold	How the tablet can connect to the Web (Wi-Fi, 3G, or both)	How long the battery will last when the tablet is being used	Height x width x depth; Screen size; How much the tablet weighs	Sockets that give a tablet access to peripherals; Slots that can read media cards
** 59 PM ***	Velocity Micro Cruz Reader MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 1991469	Android 2.0	256MB (plus 4GB internal microSD card)	Wi-Fi	10 hours	7.5x5.6x0.6 inches; 7 inches; 16 ounces	1 micro USB, 1 headphone; SD
	Archos 32 Internet Tablet MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 2257719	Android 2.2	8GB	Wi-Fi	8 hours	4.1x2.1x0.3 inches; 3.2 inches; 2.5 ounces	1 USB, 1 headphone, 1 Composite; N/A
	<b>Huawei Ideos S7</b> MSRP: \$399* SKU 1411106	Android 2.1	N/A	Wi-Fi, 3G (SIM card not included)	N/A	8.9x4.3x0.6 inches; 7 inches; 17.6 ounces	1 micro USB, 1 headphone, 1 SIM card; SD
***	Samsung Galaxy Tab 3G MSRP: \$499* SKU 1411072	Android 2.2	2GB (plus included 16GB microSD card)	Wi-Fi, 3G	7 hours	7.5x4.7x0.5 inches; 7 inches; 13.6 ounces	1 headphone; microSD
	<b>Dell Streak</b> MSRP: \$549.99* SKU 1420247	Android 2.2	Included 16GB microSD card	Wi-Fi, 3G	10 hours	6x3.1x0.4 inches; 5 inches; 7.7 ounces	1 headphone; microSD
EEC C	BlackBerry PlayBook MSRP: \$499*; \$599*; \$699* SKU 2265381	BlackBerry Tablet OS	16GB; 32GB; 64GB	Wi-Fi, 3G	N/A	7.6x5.1x0.4 inches; 7 inches; 14.4 ounces	1 micro USB, 1 micro HDMI; N/A
	Motorola Xoom MSRP: Xoom with Wi-Fi: \$599* Xoom: \$799* SKU 1946179	Android 3.0	32GB	Wi-Fi (Xoom with Wi-Fi); Wi-Fi, 3G (Xoom)	10 hours (Xoom with Wi-Fi); 9 hours (Xoom)	9.8x6.6x0.5 inches; 10.1 inches; 25 ounces (Xoom with Wi-Fi), 26 ounces (Xoom)	1 micro USB, 1 HDMI; N/A
	Apple iPad 2 MSRP: Wi-Fi: \$499*; \$599*; \$699* Wi-Fi + 3G: \$629*; \$729*; \$829* SKU 2340071	iOS 4	16GB; 32GB; 64GB	Wi-Fi (iPad with Wi-Fi); Wi-Fi, 3G (iPad with Wi-Fi + 3G)	10 hours	9.5x7.3x0.3 inches; 9.7 inches; 21.3 ounces (Wi-Fi), 21.5 ounces (Wi-Fi + 3G)	1 headphone; N/A

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



# Software Listings

# **Get More Out Of Your PC**

Computers can be used to create greeting cards, play games, keep track of your finances, and more. The thing is, most of these functions aren't available straight out of the box. To fully harness your computer's potential, you'll need to buy software. Here are some options.

## Audio, Photo & Video



# Adobe Photoshop **Elements 9**

\$99.99\*

www.adobe.com

Easily edit, share, and manage your photo collection and get professional results using Adobe Photoshop Elements 9.



#### **Broderbund Print Shop 2.0 Professional**

\$89.99\*

www.broderbund.com

Create sophisticated projects using the Wizard Design tool or a ready-made template. You can create greeting cards, banners, newsletters, photo projects, and more.



#### **Roxio Creator 2011**

\$99.99\*

www.roxio.com

Use Roxio Creator 2011 to easily capture, enhance, and preserve your photos, videos, and audio projects. New features include 3D effects, video stabilization and rotation, and a redesigned backdrop interface. 3D glasses are also included.



## Corel PaintShop **Photo Pro X3 Ultimate** \$99.99\*

www.corel.com

Corel PaintShop Photo Pro X3 lets you manage, edit, and share your digital photos. Make automatic fixes in the enhanced Express Lab or you can use the included advanced editing tools.



#### Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection

\$129.99\*

www.pinnaclesys.com

Pinnacle Studio Ultimate Collection comes with a full set of plug-ins and a Chromakey green screen for advanced effects, editing, and production.



# **Adobe Premiere** Elements 9

\$99.99\*

www.adobe.com

Turn your home videos into movies using special effects, music, and images from Adobe Premiere Elements 9. Once you're done, you can share them via disc or the Internet.



## Roxio Easy VHS To DVD

\$59.99\*

www.roxio.com

Use Roxio's Easy VHS To DVD software to easily transfer video from VHS, Hi8, V8, or analog camcorders to DVD. You can also edit the video and add professional effects.



# Nero 10 Multimedia Suite **Platinum HD**

\$129.99\*

www.nero.com

Nero 10 Multimedia Suite Platinum HD makes it easy to import video from nearly any source, add effects, and then burn the final result to BD, DVD, or CD. You can also share it between mobile devices.

#### \* Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retail pricing.



# **Business Applications**



## **Microsoft Office** Home & Student 2010

\$149.99\*

www.microsoft.com

The Home and Student version of Microsoft Office 2010 has enhanced features for creating and managing documents and includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote.



# **Individual Software** ResumeMaker Professional

\$29.95\*

www.individualsoftware.com

It's easy to write a professional resume quickly using ResumeMaker Professional. The software also includes advanced search tools.



# Intuit Quicken Home & Business 2011

\$99.99\*

www.guicken.intuit.com

The 2011 version of Quicken Home and Business will help you categorize your home and business finances and show you profits and losses at a glance. Plus, you can streamline the tax-paying process when the time comes.



# Intuit QuickBooks Pro 2011

\$229.95\*

www.quickbooks.intuit.com Easily keep track of your company's finances with QuickBooks Pro

2011. You can view expense and income breakdowns, account balances, and more, so it's easy to know where your money is going.

## Games/ Entertainment



## Activision Barbie & The Three Musketeers \$19.99\*

www.activision.com Choose a character with a unique ability to help you tackle obstacles and solve puzzles to uncover a plot against the prince and become a true musketeer.



## Disney Interactive Studio Alice In Wonderland \$19.99\*

disney.go.com/disney interactivestudios Inspired by the Tim Burton film, this game lets you fall down the rabbit hole and experience Alice's adventure in Wonderland. You can play as the Mad Hatter, White Rabbit, or another character from the film to help Alice on her journey.



## Electronic Arts The Sims 3 \$39.95\*

www.ea.com

Create your very own Sims.
Customize their personalities,
appearances, and homes and
send them out into the world to
explore the neighborhood and
meet new friends.



## Lego Indiana Jones 2: The Adventure Continues \$19.99\*

www.lucasarts.com
Explore the locations from all
four films and build your own
levels and environments. Your
favorite Indiana Jones characters are depicted in Lego form.

# Home Productivity



## Nuance Dragon NaturallySpeaking 11 Home \$99.99\*

www.nuance.com
Dictate emails, reports, and
documents much faster than
you can type by letting Dragon
NaturallySpeaking do the typing for you. The software has an
accuracy rate of up to 99%.



# Apple MobileMe

www.apple.com

MobileMe, Apple's Internet service, lets you keep your email, contacts, and calendar up-to-date across your iPhone, iPod touch, Mac, and PC. It also lets you store and share documents online via iDisk, and you can manage everything online through a suite of Web applications at www me com



## H&R Block At Home Deluxe \$54.95\*

www.handrblock.com
The Deluxe version of H&R
Block At Home makes it easy for
homeowners and investors to file
tax returns. Once you're done,
you can use the five included
federal e-files to file online.



## Nova Development Family Tree Maker Deluxe \$69.95\*

novadevelopment.com Explore and preserve your family history with the software, a free three-month subscription to Ancestry.com, an iPhone app, and more.

## Security/ Utilities



# Kaspersky Lab Internet Security 2011

\$79.95\*

www.kaspersky.com
This software includes features
to protect you from the latest
viruses, spyware, and malware threats for one year and
three PCs.



## Kaspersky Lab Pure Total Security \$89.95\*

www.kaspersky.com
Kaspersky Pure Total Security
offers all-in-one protection for
your PC. It protects against
Internet threats and identity
theft and also offers backup, encryption, and clean-up tools.



# Webroot Internet Security Complete 2011

\$79.95\*

www.webroot.com
Internet Security Complete can
protect your computer from
spyware, viruses, and spam. It
also uses advanced technologies to ensure your identity is
safe as you shop and browse
the Internet. You can also back
up digital photos and other
files and sync them with a PC.



## Trend Micro Titanium Maximum Security \$79.95\*

www.trendmicro.com
Trend Micro's Titanium Maximum Security is easy to use and
provides a variety of tools that
can keep your computer and
identity safe.

# System Clean-Up & Repair



## Avanquest Fix-It Utilities 11 Professional \$49.95\*

www.avanquest.com
Make your computer run like
new. Use Fix-It Utilities 11
to defragment, clean, repair,
and optimize your Windows
registry to improve overall PC
performance and check your
system memory, hard drive,
and more.



## iolo System Mechanic \$49.95\* www.iolo.com

With System Mechanic, you can find and fix errors and fragmentation on your PC, clean out clutter, and optimize your system for best performance.



## Acronis True Image Home 2011 \$49.99\*

www.acronis.com
This software backs up your
entire computer, including the
operating system, files, settings,
and more, so you can easily recreate your system in the event
of data loss.



## iolo DriveScrubber \$19.95\*

www.iolo.com

When it's time to get rid of your old computer, use Drive-Scrubber to ensure all of your personal data has been deleted. DriveScrubber will wipe your entire drive, including free space, and restore damaged drives.

# NOTEWORTHY \_\_\_\_\_

# Accessories & Services

A computer is a big investment, and now that you've taken the plunge, it's time to decide what accessories you need to go along with that shiny new purchase. We've rounded up several of our favorite extras for every computer owner. Whether you have a laptop or desktop, be sure to add these items to your shopping list to complete your computing experience.



#### **KEYBOARD**

- An ergonomic design can cut down on the wrist strain associated with carpal tunnel syndrome
- Bluetooth connectivity lends itself to a tidy desk because there's one less wire to contend with
- A specialty model, such as a gaming or media keyboard, adds functionality to your pastime of choice



#### **USB HUB**

- Offers an affordable way to connect all of your peripherals, even if you have more gadgets than USB ports
- Adds the convenience of easy USB access-no more reaching behind your computer to plug in your USB devices



#### **EXTERNAL HARD DRIVE**

- Protect precious video and photo memories: Back up to an external hard drive
- · Keep your computer running more efficiently by saving large files, such as your media collection, on an external drive



#### **MOUSE**

- A wireless mouse will cut down on cable clutter at your desk and also offers the convenience of portability for laptop use
- · A gaming mouse can deliver better accuracy and speed for the ultimate in control
- Consider customizable buttons if you want to be able to access media, files, or programs with onetouch convenience



#### **CLEANING KIT**

- Specially designed cleaners will keep your computer screen clean without running the risk of scratching its surface
- · Cloths are often made of low-conductivity material in order to reduce static



#### SURGE PROTECTOR

- Ensure the electrical current running to your desktop or laptop computer doesn't exceed proper levels
- Portable models will protect your laptop when you're on the go for work or play



## **WEB CAM**

 Bridge the gap between long-distance family and friends with online video chatting by adding a Web cam to your setup



#### **PRINTER**

- A quality photo printer will eliminate trips to the drugstore for prints and give you the ability to instantly share your photo memories
- · An all-in-one model is the perfect addition for any busy family that needs a device that can operate as a copier, scanner, fax machine, and printer



#### **COMPUTING SERVICES**

To keep your desktop or laptop computer in tip-top shape, take advantage of the computing services offered at your local CE retailer. They can help you keep your machine running smoothly and free from the dangers that lurk online.

- · Computer Setup & Networking
- Virus & Spyware Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery
- Hardware & Software Upgrades
- Training & Consultation

FirstGlimpse









# Moms, Dads & Grads

# Commemorate Their Special Days With A Tech Gift

One great thing about technology is that it doesn't discriminate. Whether we're talking about a recent high school or college graduate who's been using technology since the first day of school or a parent who only recently abandoned his old-school ways, there are scores of technology-related products well-suited to all levels of tech experience.

The articles in this section detail such gifts, specifically those for upcoming graduates (page 56) and mothers (page 52) and fathers (page 54) who we'll soon honor on Mother's Day and Father's Day. Beyond providing gift ideas related to home theater, digital imaging, computers, portable devices, appliances, gaming, and other areas, we've covered price points suitable to nearly any gift-giver, including gifts costing \$25 and less, \$25 to \$100, \$100 to \$500, and \$500 or more.

#### The Ideal Tech Gifts

A good approach to buying gifts is matching the gift to the recipient's personality. If your mom is new to tech gadgets but is the sentimental type, for example, an easy-to-operate point-and-shoot digital camera that she can grow into while documenting her grandchildren's lives is a perfect gift. If your dad is tech savvy and also an avid cook, a tablet computer he can use to organize and view recipes while in the kitchen is a great option.

While buying gifts is often easier the better you know the receiver, technology also makes buying for those you're less acquainted with far easier. It's doubtful, for example, your boss' son who is about to graduate from high school will turn away a gift card for downloading music, movies, or games online.

Ultimately, the technology-packed gift ideas on the following pages provide a great starting point for selecting a gift for the student or parent on your list, no matter her experience level.

BY BLAINE FLAMIG



# For All She Does Or **Just Because**

It's her special day. Whether she's your mother or simply a wonderful lady in your life, she deserves a special gift. Budgets vary so we've included great ideas for every price range.





Lens cleaner. Here she comes, camcorder in hand. Although you may groan or hide behind your sibling, you're nevertheless pleased to know that your mom is catching those irreplaceable family moments. Give her some safe cleaning products to get rid of dust and fingerprints on her lens. You'll appreciate the crystal clear results someday.

**Protective case.** She's a tech-savvy woman with the latest smartphone. And back in the day, wasn't she the first mom on her block to own an MP3 player? Help her protect her newest toy with a form-fitting case in her favorite color.

**Screen cleaner.** Between Skype and Facebook, your mom spends more time keeping up with friends and family on her computer than she ever did on the phone. Some cleaning spray and a chamois-style cloth made just for LCD screens can keep her from reaching for a chemically harsh window cleaner when she notices a smudge or two.



Motion-based games. Remember the fun when your mom tried a motion-based videogame for the first time? If she enjoyed herself, be aware that there are plenty more games available. You'll find dance competitions, exercise titles, and even arcade-style action that might take her back to her younger days.

**Portable DVD player.** Peace in the car. That's all your wife wants. And that's what a portable DVD player can deliver. Mount it in the backseat and pop in the kids' favorites, and the love of your life can once again enjoy the ride. (Don't be surprised to see her curl up in bed with a good movie later.)

**Photo-editing software.** She considers her digital camera a blessing. Organizing its photo files and removing all the red-eye, however—that's more like a curse. Treat your mom to some easy-to-use photo-management software, and she'll probably start treating you to attached image files that aren't large enough to capsize your inbox.



## Over-the-ear headphones.

Mom can block out the sounds around her and enjoy music tracks with a good set of over-the-ear headphones. Sets such as the Klipsch Image ONE Stereo headphones on page 65, have cushioned, insulated ear cups, so they're comfortable to wear and also make it possible to hear audio clearly at a lower volume.

**eReader.** Spring cleaning was an ordeal this year. In fact, bookworm Mom seriously considered donating some of her books just to free up shelf space. Sounds like it's time for an electronic book reader, which can store an entire bookshelf's worth of titles in its memory.

**Extended zoom camera.** Help Mom take great photos from a distance with a camera that has an extended zoom. Nikon's Coolpix S9100 (on pages 26 and 27) has an 18X optical zoom, so she can get snap up-close shots from far away.



Any appliance. No matter who does the majority of the cooking and cleaning, the whole household can appreciate the results of a new washer, dryer, oven range, or dishwasher. When clothes get cleaner, food gets done well (instead of well done), and said food actually vanishes from the flatware before the next sitting, life is good.

**Tablet.** Tablets are a hot trend—there's no denying it. And as soon as Mom zooms in on a map or resizes a photo with her fingertips, there'll be no denying her a tablet of her own. From streaming movies to casual gaming, she'll love the versatility and ease of use. Just don't try to borrow it when she's not looking.

**All-in-one computer.** Mom isn't a fan of clutter in the house, so naturally, she'd love a sleek, space-saving PC, such as the Sony VAIO L Series PC on page 37. Add to that a model with a touchscreen, and she'll get a huge kick.



\$25 Or Less



\$25 To \$100



\$100 To \$500



\$500 Or More

BY MARTY SEMS



# DAD

# Give Him The Best Father's Day Ever

You've done the stereotypical Father's Day routine before over the years: ties, coffee mugs, handmade cards, repeat. Those old standbys are all well and good, but show your pop that you really care by moving past those boilerplate gifts and give him something he can show off to his friends or colleagues. No matter your budget, there's a gift that's perfect for your dear old dad.





Memory card. If your dad is the type whose camera or camcorder is an extension of his hand, give him the gift of storage. A memory card provides shutterbugs and home movie directors more space to store captured memories, so your father can keep shooting longer without having to stop and dump his photos on a computer.

**Surge protector.** Maybe your old man is a hometheater fan and already has an HDTV, speakers, a Blu-ray player, and all the other goodies. A surge protector is a great gift that will protect all his beloved gear from electrical anomalies, for which he'll be extremely grateful.

**Single-serve blender.** Whether your dad is an exercise nut who likes to make his own protein shakes and smoothies or an aspiring chef who's into experimenting in the kitchen, a single-serve blender offers a quick, efficient way for him to make his own concoctions.



MP3 player. A great MP3 player doesn't have to break the bank. When he's out for a jog or working in the yard, an MP3 player may be your father's best friend. He can listen to his favorite tunes, catch up on the latest podcasts, or dive into an audio book.

**External hard drive.** So your dad can back up his computer (or multiple computers) or stash a few extra projects he can take with him, give him an external hard drive. Whether your dad has tons of photos and videos, has large files from work projects, or is a little prone to dropping laptops, an external hard drive is a great gift.

**Active lifestyle headphones.** Some headphones are built to handle a little dirt and sweat, such as the Philips ActionFit earhooks on page 64. With a secure fit and washable design, dad will be glad to have a longlasting solution to listen to his favorite tunes as he runs, weight trains, or completes tasks on his honey-do list.



Blu-ray Disc player. No dad on the planet would turn up his nose at a gift of a Blu-ray Disc player. With a BD player, he can enjoy his favorite BD movie titles at optimum clarity on his HDTV. You can also throw in some of dad's favorite flicks from years past that have been released on BD so he can watch them with renewed color and detail on his special day.

**Docking station.** Help dad get more out of his media-laden device with a docking station. Not only will it let him share his favorite tunes with a group, but it might even charge his portable player. Select docking stations, such as the JBL OnBeat on page 59, can even output video to an HDTV.

**Durable camera.** A durable camera can go more places, and subsequently capture more memories, than a standard camera. Models, such as the Olympus TG-610 on page 25, can withstand a sledding trip in freezing temperatures, a dunk in the pool, and a drop during a hiking trip.



D-SLR camera. Whether your old man is into photography or just appreciates professional-quality family photos, you can't go wrong by getting him a D-SLR. And hey, if you're lucky, maybe he'll give you his old point-and-shoot.

**HDTV** with **3D** capabilities. A new 3D HDTV is a welcome gift for anyone, but your dad will flip when he unwraps this amazing present. Make his Father's Day the best of the century by giving him a 3D HDTV for his living room or man cave. 3D-ready devices such as a 3D BD player, 3D BD discs, and high-speed HDMI cables will round out his 3D experience.

**Surround-sound speakers.** What better complement to an HDTV than a superb set of speakers? Set your dad up in glorious surround sound with a top-of-the-line home-theater-in-a-box to deliver high-caliber audio.



\$25 Or Less



\$25 To \$100



\$100 To \$500



\$500 Or More

BY SETH COLANER



# Tech Gifts For Those In A Cap & Gown

Soon-to-be graduates grew up with technology, so a tech gift is a great idea and something they can use in their everyday lives. You may also want to consider buying them accessories for electronics they already own. Here, we give a few ideas for various price ranges.





bvD or Blu-ray Disc. Do you know your grad's favorite movie? A DVD or Blu-ray Disc copy of the film is a nice way to say "congratulations." Another good option could be a film that relates to their intended career or future path.

**USB flash drive.** A USB flash drive is an affordable gift that most every graduate could use to carry her favorite digital music, photos, and videos. Graduates continuing their education can also use their flash drives to transport documents and files for classes.

**Mini-tripod.** If the gift recipient has a point-and-shoot camera, a mini-tripod is a handy accessory that will eliminate camera shake, and with the help of a camera's timer, it gives users the ability to frame a shot and jump into group photos. Unlike a full-size tripod, a mini-tripod features short legs (typically around 6 inches to a foot tall) that fold together, so that you can throw it in a camera bag.



Bluetooth headset. A Bluetooth headset works with your grad's mobile phone to provide hands-free calls. The most obvious recipients would be graduates who like to make calls while they drive, but many Bluetooth headsets also support audio playback, which would benefit those that listen to music or watch videos on their phones.

**Web-upload camera.** Your grad has an exciting journey ahead of him, so why not help him share it? A digicam with a Web upload feature makes sharing images on social networking and media-sharing Web sites quick and easy. For example, the Fujifilm FinePix JV200 on page 34 can upload files to Facebook and YouTube.

**Wireless SDHC card.** Any grad with a digicam will appreciate an Eye-Fi wireless SDHC memory card. It automatically uploads photo and video files to a PC or online sharing sites via Wi-Fi. To learn more about Eye-Fi cards, see page 28.



Microwave. High school graduates that will be moving into a college dorm will likely need a microwave to heat up food, and college grads may need one if they're moving into a new place. Compact models are ideal for dorm rooms that are short on space.

**All-in-one printer.** An all-in-one printer is one of the most practical tech gifts you can buy. It gives the recipient a means to print out documents and résumés, and most models are capable of producing photos. (See the Brother all-in-ones on page 36, for instance.) Grads can also use the scanner on top of the all-in-one printer to scan or copy pages and photos.

**Shoot-and-share camcorder.** Recent grads can shoot video of the next stage of their lives with an easy-to-use and portable pocket camcorder. And sharing the video online is a snap. The Sony Bloggie Duo HD Camera on page 20 even has a front LCD, so self-recording is simple.



**Tablet.** To improve your grad's productivity with apps and let her enjoy TV, movies, and music on the go, consider a tablet. There are a variety of tablets available, including models that specialize in computing and media playback. With a battery life that spans several hours, grads will be able to use it over a longer period of time than a notebook.

**HD camcorder.** Graduates that plan on traveling will enjoy a high-quality digital camcorder to capture video of their adventures. HD digital camcorders record footage ideal for showing off on an HDTV, and many models feature an HDMI output to make a direct connection to an HDTV easy.

**4G WilMAX laptop.** A laptop with 4G WiMAX built in will let the recent grad in your life connect to the Web in more places. Faster than Wi-Fi or 3G, she'll be able to edit online documents or stream media all around town. Learn more about Intel's 4G WiMAX wireless networking technology on page 43.



\$25 Or Less



\$25 To \$100



\$100 To \$500



\$500 Or More

BY SETH COLANER

# **HOW TO BUY**

# An MP3 Player For An Active Lifestyle

# **Devices Made To Move**



MP3 players provide music and media that can motivate you while exercising and help you battle boredom during longer sessions. We'll show you what features to look for while shopping so you can find the perfect MP3 player to accompany your workouts.

Capacity. MP3 players range in capacity from 2GB (about 500 songs) to more than 100GB (about 25,000 songs). And some devices have media card slots so you can expand that

available memory even more. There are also compact players that are perfect for active lifestyles. Some have built-in clips, and while their capacities are often

. . . many can still hold 4,000 or more songs.

lower, many can still hold 4,000 or more songs. Whether you plan on doing a quick workout or running a marathon, you can find an MP3 player that holds enough music to keep you going.

**Durability.** Most of the MP3 players you find in stores today have flash memory. This is great for those with an active lifestyle because, unlike hard drive-based players, there are no moving parts so there's a smaller chance of damage to the device if you drop it.

... there's a smaller chance of damage to the device if you drop it . . .

Available accessories. Even the most durable and feature-rich MP3 players can benefit from accessories. You may want to secure your player with an armband or a case that has a clip so you don't have to carry your device in your hand or pocket. There are also docks and stereo systems that are compatible with MP3 players so you can easily dock your device while you lift weights at home.

**Extra features.** Some MP3 players can do much more than play MP3s. Built-in FM tuners and video capabilities can make your device much more versatile by letting you listen to the radio or catch up on TV shows while exercising. And if your device supports it, there are many apps available that can track different elements of your workout, such as calories burned, timed intervals, or distance traveled.

Built-in FM tuners and video capabilities . . .

BY JOSH COMPTON

Entertainment For A Crowd

# The JBL OnBeat™ Is A Social Rocker

While enjoying media on portable devices is great for individuals, the same can't be said for groups of people. The JBL OnBeat loudspeaker docking station (\$149.95; www.jbl.com) solves that sharing dilemma by pairing with your Apple iPad, iPhone, or iPod and turning it into the life of a party.

# **Digital Clarity**

Thanks to DSP equalization and a full-range frequency response, audio playback through the JBL OnBeat's Phoenix transducers is clear as can be. And its high-power digital amplification maintains low distortion even with the volume cranked. The result is a 360-degree soundstage that's rich in audio detail and bold in delivery.

# **Beyond The Dock**

Because you can dock your iPhone or iPod device in either portrait or landscape orientation, you can present your photos and video to others just the way you like. And should the occasion call for a bigger screen, the JBL OnBeat offers a Composite video output so you can use a TV as a display. What's more, you can patch in additional media players using the dock's 3.5mm auxiliary input.

# **Full-Service Docking**

The JBL OnBeat's innovative cradle lets it interface with virtually any Apple iOS gadget. That's a tip of the hat to the fact that so many iPad users are also iPhone and/or iPod owners. And when plugged into an outlet, the JBL OnBeat will charge your device's battery when it's docked, even if the system is powered off.



## **Effortless Control**

With the JBL OnBeat's IR remote, you can switch playlists instantly from across the room. The remote can do much more, of course, and it even supports navigation through the menus of your iPad, iPhone, or iPod. And for up-close control, the JBL OnBeat offers touch controls to adjust volume levels and mute or unmute with just a tap.



# Banish Those **Bundled Buds**

# The Benefits Of A **Headphone Upgrade**

Quality headphones can make a world of difference for music lovers. The earbuds that accompany most MP3 players, however, offer the bare minimum when it comes to sound reproduction. As a result, your music sounds like a lifeless echo compared to the musician's original intent. Read on for several reasons to upgrade your MP3 player's headphones.

# Features You Can Hear (Or Not)

Aftermarket headphones, particularly the premium models, offer a slew of features you won't find in pairs bundled with your device. Frequent flyers are big fans of noise-canceling technology, which actively diminishes repetitive noises such as roaring jet engines. Soundisolating headphones can seal off the ear canal to more passively immerse the listener in the music. Some headphones can even simulate a surround-sound experience.

# The Professional Edge

If you want to hear your music like the pros do, then opt for studio headphones. Prices start at about \$50 but average more than \$250. These headphones are generally an over-the-ear style to support large speaker drivers, but offer padded ear cups for hours of comfortable listening. Studio headphones tend to support the widest audio frequency response and reproduce audio in a true-to-life fashion with a portable design.

# Fidelity, Fidelity, Fidelity

You don't have to have a concert pianist's finely tuned ear to enjoy a quality pair of headphones. If you want a superior listening experience, you will typically find that a headphone's high-quality sound justifies the price. Upgrading to better headphones will open your ears to previously unheard instruments; rich, deep bass; powerful midranges; and crisp highs.

## One Size Does Not Fit All

Another problem with those bundled buds is the fact that they're typically one size fits all, but comfortable for none. Standalone headphones commonly feature adjustable headbands, earbud tips in multiple sizes, and pivoting cans to conform to your comfort needs. They also come in a range of different styles to suite your preference, such as earbuds, clip-ons, and over-the-ear.

Aftermarket headphones, particularly the premium models, offer a slew of features you won't find in pairs bundled with your device.

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN



# Find Your Headphone Fit

# **What Different Styles Deliver**

Headphones are more than the sum of their decibels and frequency responses; finding the right mix of comfort, portability, and audio experience is the key to getting the headphones that best suit you. Read on to determine the unique benefits of earbud, clip-on, behind-the-neck, and over-the-ear headphone styles.



- Compact design makes earbuds perfect for active lifestyles and easy storage.
- Comfortable fit enables listeners to wear earbuds for extended periods without discomfort.
- Sound-isolating earbuds can block ambient noise from entering your ear, which makes for a more immersive experience and fewer potential distractions for those around you.

**Perfect For:** Music lovers who want an uninterrupted listening experience on the go.

# Clip-Ons

- Clip-ons combine the more accurate sound reproduction capabilities of over-the-ear and behind-the-neck headphone styles with the portability of ear buds.
- The ear clips follow the contour of the ear, ensuring comfort for the duration of the listening experience.
- Designed to fit securely and stay put during a variety of activities.

**Perfect For**: Music lovers who want an uncompromising listening experience on the go.

#### **Behind-The-Neck**

- Available in both over-the-ear and earbud styles to suit your preferences. Some have larger drivers for quality sound reproduction, while others have in-ear speakers for their sound-isolating properties.
- Simple design keeps wire clutter to a minimum and makes the headphones fit anyone.
- You can wear hats with them on. Need we say more? **Perfect For:** Active or fashion-conscious users who want a tailored listening experience on the go.

# Over-The-Ear Headphones

- The traditional design allows for large drivers for unequalled audio reproduction.
- Reduces outside noise by covering and enclosing the whole ear.
- Produces the highest-quality audio suitable for recording and monitoring.

**Perfect For:** Professionals and uncompromising music enthusiasts.

. . . finding the right mix of comfort, portability, and audio experience is the key to getting the headphones that best suit you.

BY ANDREW LEIBMAN



# Headphone Sound Considerations

# Listen In

Unless you strap on a pair of headphones and listen to some of your favorite tunes, you can never really tell if a model has the sound quality you want. However, there are plenty of features you can look at to make an educated determination.

## Noise Isolation vs. Noise Cancelation

Many types of headphones are designed to eliminate ambient noise using noise isolation or noise cancelation to improve your listening experience. Noise isolation is often found in earbud-type headphones, which offer different sized tips made from foam, silicon, or other soft materials to best fit your ear canal. A seal is created between your ears and the headphone, and in turn background noise is blocked.

Noise-canceling headphones are typically larger and heavier than noise-isolation models. They use a small built-in battery-powered microphone to "listen" to ambient noise and produce a sound to counteract it. This effectively eliminates any outside sound.

#### **Drivers**

Drivers are responsible for reproducing sound from the entire audio spectrum, and typically larger drivers deliver better sound. This is why over-the-ear headphones often have better audio quality than tiny earbudsthere's plenty of room in the former for larger drivers.

In terms of the number of drivers a set of headphones has, audio generally reaches a higher quality when there are more drivers. Some models with multiple drivers can simulate surround sound by channeling different parts of an audio signal to its drivers.

## Frequency Response

An important specification for headphones, the frequency response tells you the audio range—the lowest lows and highest highs—a pair of headphones is capable of producing. This range, which is expressed in Hz (hertz) and kHz (kilohertz), indicates what you'll be able to hear. As such, a pair of headphones with a wider frequency response range will deliver more comprehensive audio than those with smaller ranges.

Some models with multiple drivers can simulate surround sound by channeling different parts of an audio signal to its drivers.

By Seth Colaner



# Headphone Highlights

# Features To Look For

Once you pick a headphone style and sound quality that suits your needs, you can focus on what headphone features are most important to you. The most common considerations include their connections, built-in controls, and comfort.

# Weight

A lightweight pair of headphones is often important for those who are always on the move, such as runners and travelers. In addition to a good fit, this can also help the headphones stay in place.

## Volume Control

With a volume control integrated into the cord or headphone, the ability to change the audio volume will always be within reach. This feature is particularly handy if you tend to keep your MP3 player hidden in a pocket.

# In-line Microphone

People who listen to music on their mobile phone may want to invest in a pair of headphones with a built-in microphone. This allows you to answer incoming calls and clearly hear the person on the other end through the headphones.

# Portable Design

Some larger high-end headphones can fold flat, making them ideal for travel because they don't take up too much space.

## **Comfort Features**

Some earbud headphones include differently sized tips, so you can find one that fits best in your ear canal. A number of over-the-ear models also have replaceable ear cushions, so you can swap in new cushions when your old ones become worn out.

# **Cord Concerns**

If you have a specific use in mind for your headphones, such as connecting them to your home theater from your couch, you'll need to match your needs with the right cord length. Some models offer cables that are up to four feet long.

#### Wireless

If your MP3 player or mobile phone offers a Bluetooth connection, consider a set of Bluetooth headphones for a tangle-free connection. Most Bluetooth models also have a built-in microphone to make and receive phone calls.

The most common considerations include their connections, built-in controls, and comfort.

BY NATHAN LAKE

# Philips O'Neill, Style & Sport Headphones

# A Perfect Match No Matter The Lifestyle

Different listeners have different needs. So whether you're an outdoors nut, audiophile, or combination of both, Philips (www .usa.philips.com) offers a variety of headphones so you can find your perfect fit.



# Philips O'Neill The Stretch Over-The-Ear **Headphones**

SKU: 2051238 \$79.99

Combining a super-flexible headband with extra-soft cushioning, the Philips O'Neill The Stretch headphones give wearers an incredibly comfortable, yet highly durable, fit ideal for DJs, audiophiles, outdoor enthusiasts, or anyone else demanding long-lasting comfort and premium audio quality in a handsome design. The headphones' audio prowess comes by way of a 40mm driver in each earcup; gold-plated 3.5mm adapter attached to a 3.9-foot tangle-free, nylon cord; and noiseisolating earcups that drive high-end audio into listeners' ears while keeping unwanted environmental noises out.



# **Philips Headband** Headphones

SKU: 2149205 \$69.99

The Philips Headband Headphones combine the best aspects of quality indoor and outdoor headphones into one foldable, lightweight design that offers sound-isolating abilities to keep ambient noise at bay. With its super-soft, over-the-ear memory foam cushions, 3.9-foot tangle-free cord, and stainless steel headband, these headphones offer the flexibility for long stretches of comfortable wear and durability to take them wherever you go. Better, each earpiece houses a 40mm driver with a neodymium magnet that outputs fullbodied, precision audio that's strong with a booming bass response.



# **Philips ActionFit Earhook Headphones**

SKU: 2149199 \$29.99

Designed specifically for sports enthusiasts, the Philips adjustable ActionFit Earhook Headphones come equipped with a generous 3.9-foot cable, and three included sizes of ultra-soft silicon ear tips give actionoriented wearers extreme comfort along with stereo audio that features booming bass. An angled acoustic ear tip design, meanwhile, creates a sound-isolating fit in your ear canal to block ambient noise and let you clearly hear audio at a lower volume. Elsewhere, the sweat-proof, antibacterial, and waterproof design enables you to wash the eartips under tap water when your workout is done.

# Klipsch Image ONE Stereo Headphones

# **High-Performance Sound**

Just because you like your mobile audio devices svelte doesn't mean you want audio fidelity to take a back seat. Klipsch understands this and has created its stylish Image ONE stereo headphones (\$149.99; www.klipsch.com) to cater to music lovers who never leave home without their audio devices, particularly their iPods, iPhones, or iPads.



# **Big Sound & Comfort**

Unlike those flimsy bundled earbuds, Klipsch uses 40mm moving coil drivers in the Image ONE, and you can hear the difference with deep lows, full mids, and crisp and clear highs that earbuds are simply incapable of reproducing. And because they use an on-ear design and high-density memory foam ear cups, these headphones block ambient noise, letting you listen comfortably for longer. The adjustable leather headband and rotating and swiveling cans make these headphones truly comfortable for anyone.

## **Take Control**

The Klipsch Image ONE headphones feature a built-in mic and an in-line three-button remote, which lets them function as a headset for calls on your iOS-based device. When listening to music, the audio feed will automatically pause for incoming calls and resume when you hang up. Volume up and down buttons let you control your music without fussing with your mobile device. You can also pause music by pressing the in-line call button once, skip forward by pressing the button twice, or skip back by pressing the button three times.

#### As Mobile As You

These sleek black headphones have chrome and leather accents that will turn heads as you take them out on the road. The ear cups rotate inward and fold flat so you can easily stow them in a bag or purse. Better yet, Klipsch includes a stylish zippered carry case as well as an airline adapter. The Klipsch Image ONE headphones work with any device with a standard 3.5mm headphone jack, as well as studio equipment using the included ½-inch adapter.

# MP3 Player Glossary

Who doesn't want an MP3 player? It can help you relax, motivate you, and ensure you always have a song to match your mood. When you head to your local CE retailer to snag one, make sure you have this glossary so you can choose the perfect model.

AAC-Short for Advanced Audio Codec, this format is a competitor of the more common MP3 file format. It is the default format used by Apple.

Bluetooth—A wireless technology, supported by some MP3 players, that connects devices with shortrange radio frequencies.

capacity—How much data a player can hold. This is typically expressed in gigabytes or megabytes. Generally speaking, 1GB will hold about 250 songs.

download-In terms of digital music, downloading is when you retrieve a song from an Internet site or another network connection and save it to your computer or portable music player. You can download songs from music Web sites such as iTunes, Napster, or Rhapsody.

**DRM** (digital rights management)—DRM is a security mechanism for digital media, associated with copyright. A common DRM scheme for digital music involves getting a licensed file to authorize playback of a free or purchased song.

earbuds—Small, circular devices you put into your ears so you can listen to music on your player. These serve the same function as headphones. Many music players include their own earbuds, but

you can purchase a separate pair that is more comfortable or of better quality.

flash memory—Solid-state memory with no moving parts that is lightweight and small. In terms of digital music players, a flash-based player is lighter and smaller than a hard drive-based player, and also, it won't skip. Thus, flash-based players are popular for use during exercise. However, the capacity of a flash-based player isn't as large as a hard drive-based player.

FM tuner—If your music player has a built-in FM tuner, you will be able to listen to music that is broadcast from local radio stations.

hard drive—Storage that consists of rigid platters inside a fixed casing. In terms of digital music players, a hard drivebased player is larger and heavier than a flash-based player. Because of the moving parts (the platters), hard drivebased players are also prone to skipping. However, their capacities are much larger than those of flash-based players.

music management program—A program, such as iTunes or Napster, that loads onto your computer and lets you play, organize, download, and purchase media, such as music and videos, for your player or PC.



MP3—Perhaps the most popular digital audio encoding format. It compresses audio to about one-twelfth the original size while still providing excellent sound. In general, a 1MB MP3 file will last about one minute.

playlist—A queue of songs a user creates to play on a computer, burn to a CD, or transfer to an MP3 player. The playlist will only include directions to the location of the songs, not the actual songs themselves.

podcast—A downloadable episode that is similar to a radio program. A user can subscribe to a podcast for updated episodes, or she can download podcasts one at a time.

screen-The display on the front of a portable music player. A player's screen can either display in color or black and white.

WMA—Windows Media Audio is a digital audio format created by Microsoft.

widescreen—A screen that has a 16:9 aspect ratio.

# Which MP3 Player Is Best For You?

iPods are cool, sure, but you have other choices when it comes to listening to your tunes. This chart compares the most important—and coolest—features from select MP3 players.

		Memory type	Capacity	Video capabilities	FM tuner	Colors	Battery life
	What It Means	Hard drive (moving parts, more capacity) or flash (no moving parts)	How much memory the player has**	Some MP3 players can play video	Some MP3 players let you listen to radio stations	Several players offer a variety of color choices	How long the battery will last when playing music
	SanDisk Sansa Clip+ MSRP: \$39.99*; \$49.99* SKU 9448449	Flash	2GB; 4GB	No	Yes	Black, purple, blue	15 hours
	Apple iPod shuffle MSRP: \$49* SKU 9845475	Flash	2GB	No	No	Orange, silver, pink, green, blue	15 hours
	Sony W Series Walkman MSRP: \$59.99* SKU 9964382	Flash	2GB	No	No	Black	11 hours
music	SanDisk Sansa Fuze+ MSRP: \$79.99* SKU 2180714	Flash	4GB	Yes	Yes	Blue, black, red	24 hours
CONVENTION OF THE PROPERTY OF	Sony S Series Walkman MSRP: \$99.99*; \$119.99* SKU 9443827	Flash	8GB; 16GB	Yes	Yes	Black, violet, red	42 hours
	<b>Apple iPod nano</b> MSRP: \$149*; \$179* SKU 1161925	Flash	8GB; 16GB	No	Yes	Pink, orange, green, blue, silver, graphite	24 hours
Omusic videos e pictures and estate e pictures e pictur	Microsoft Zune HD MSRP: \$179.99*; \$229.99* SKU 9449581	Flash	16GB; 32GB	Yes	Yes	Black, platinum silver	33 hours
	Apple iPod touch MSRP: \$229*; \$299*; \$399* SKU 9225377	Flash	8GB; 32GB; 64GB	Yes	No	Black	40 hours
	*D: live livelier	sauce and for gameral refe				nory will hold approximat	1.050

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.

\*\*One gigabyte of memory will hold approximately 250 songs. Actual capacity will vary depending on song length and format.



# Which GPS Device Is Right For You?

One of the hottest CE devices around right now is a GPS, and what a useful device it is, too. Here, we compare some models available on today's market. All of these units come with maps already loaded, and you can purchase additional maps, as well.

			Screen size; Dimensions	Text-to-speech; Traffic receiver	Preloaded maps	WAAS	Bluetooth; MP3 playback	Included charging adapters
		What It Means	The diagonal measurement of the screen; Height x width x depth	Unit calls out spe- cific street names; Unit receives traf- fic updates and re- routes accordingly	The regional maps that come included with the GPS unit	A satellite and ground station system that gives exception- al GPS accuracy	Some units com- municate wire- lessly with other Bluetooth devices or play MP3s	AC adapters plug into the wall; DC adapters plug into your car's cigarette lighter
	The state of the s	Insignia NS-NAV01 MSRP: \$99.99* SKU 9351603	4.3 inches; 3.1x4.7x0.6 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S.	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
		Magellan RoadMate 1445T MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9536424	4.3 inches; 3.5x5x0.6 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
	000	Insignia NS-NAV02R MSRP: \$129.99* SKU 9953155	4.3 inches; 3.3x4.9x0.8 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S.	No	No; No	DC adapter
	The state of the s	TomTom XL 350TM MSRP: \$169.95* SKU 9927197	4.3 inches; 3.1x4.6x1 inches	Yes; Yes (with optional traffic receiver)	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	No; No	DC adapter
<u>s</u>	Table 1	TomTom XXL 550TM MSRP: \$189.95* SKU 1334083	5 inches; 3.8x4.7x0.9 inches	Yes; No	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	No; No	DC adapter
		<b>Garmin nüvi 1450LMT</b> MSRP: \$239.99* SKU 1089764	5 inches; 3.4x5.4x0.6 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	No	No; No	DC adapter
		Magellan RoadMate 1700 MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 9464153	7 inches; 4.2x7.5x0.6 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico) and Canada	Yes	No; No	DC adapter
		Garmin nüvi 3790LMT MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 1620388	4.3 inches; 2.9x4.8x0.4 inches	Yes; Yes	Entire U.S. (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Mexico	No	Yes; No	DC adapter

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



# NOTEWORTHY \_\_\_\_\_

# Accessories & Services

No matter where you are going, a wireless device can add enjoyment to your journey. To make sure you are taking full advantage of the capabilities your portable devices offer, check your local CE retailer for accessories that can enhance your mobile experiences. We've listed our favorites below.



#### **GPS CHARGERS**

- Make sure your travel companion always has a full battery
- If you do run out of battery, charge your GPS with an adapter; these can plug into a wall, PC, or car's DC outlet



#### **MP3 PLAYER CASES**

- Protect your MP3 player from bumps and scratches
- Quickly access your player's functions with a clip
- Keep your player out of your way with an armband



#### **GPS MOUNTS**

 Mounts can be placed on a car dash or stuck to a windshield to be within reach



# MP3 PLAYER EARPHONES

- Match earphones to your needs: If you don't want anything bulky, opt for earbuds that fit inside your ear; to hear every musical detail, try headphones that cover the ear completely
- Listen to your music without the interference of background noise with earphones that offer a noise-canceling feature



# CELL PHONE CHARGERS & BATTERIES

- Keep your phone charged no matter where you are; adapters for your cell phone let you use solar power, your car's DC outlet, wall power, or your computer to charge your phone
- Be prepared for emergencies with extra cell phone batteries



# MP3 PLAYER DOCKS & SPEAKERS

- Portable speakers let you play music for a group; some include radios and can also play CDs
- With a portable dock, you can recharge your player's battery as you listen to music
- Play your music through car speakers using an FM transmitter



#### **CELL PHONE HEADSETS**

- Keep your hands free while still being able to use your phone
- Link compatible cell phones to a Bluetooth headset to make or take calls without a tangled mess of cables
- Use a headset that offers noise-canceling capabilities to ensure you don't miss any of your conversation



#### **CELL PHONE CASES**

- Safeguard your phone from wear and tear with a case
- Universal cases fit most sizes of cell phones; some of these will include clips and wrist straps for portability and accessibility
- Fitted cases specifically fit your phone's model type; these can be hard acrylic casings, rubber sleeves, or leather pouches
- Avoid getting scratches and fingerprints on your phone's screen with stick-on or hard, clear screen protectors



#### **MOBILE SERVICES**

Whether your wireless device is brand-new or nearing the end of its life span, your local CE retailer offers services to help you take care of all of its needs.

- Protection plans for GPSes, MP3 players, and cell phones
- Phone and battery recycling
- GPS setup and deck installation
- MP3 vehicle integration
- MP3 player setup and training
- Cell phone repair services and loaner phones

# **HOW TO BUY**

# An Air Conditioner

# **Get The Right AC For Your Needs**



When the high summer temperatures become unbearable, it's relieving to know you can cool off in an air-conditioned environment. To get the most benefits from an air conditioner unit, there are several specifications and features you should consider.

BTU ratings. Air conditioner models offer different cooling capacities, and these are indicated by BTU (British thermal units) ratings. The conditions of the room you want to cool, such as its size, its access to sun, or its location on a second story floor or higher, will help you determine what air conditioner BTU rating you need. BTU ratings can range from 5,000 to 13,000, and you'll need to find a model with a BTU rating that's not too large or too small for your needs. As a general rule of thumb, for every 100 square feet of space, you'll need approximately 4,000 to 6,000 BTUs to properly cool a room.

# Temperature and filtering. There are two types of air conditioner thermostats: program-

mable and manual. Some models may include both a digital display to automate operation as

well as a remote control to manually adjust settings and turn the unit on and off. To ensure the air circulated by an air conditioner

...look for a model with an antimicrobial mesh filter . . .

is clean, look for a model with an antimicrobial mesh filter that reduces bacteria, odors, and other airborne allergens.

# **Installation considerations.** Installation procedures depend upon the type of unit you purchase

and where you install it. To determine which type of AC system is best suited for your space, consider variables such as power availability (voltage capacity and outlet compatibility), the number of people using the air-conditioned room,

and the height of your ceiling. If you need a window air conditioner, you'll need to measure an available window opening in the room you want

... consider variables such as power availability . . .

to cool and make sure its size falls within the minimum and maximum dimensions allowed by the AC unit. A portable room air conditioner—which includes wheels for rolling the movable system—is an alternative option that uses an exhaust hose to vent hot air through a window, into a drop ceiling, or a similar open space.

BY JOANNA CLAY

# ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW

# Freezers & Ice Makers

# Why would I want to purchase a standalone freezer when I already have a kitchen refrigerator with a freezer?

A Standalone freezers, which are available in chest or upright configurations, can accommodate large, bulky foods that might not fit in your kitchen refrigerator's freezer. And because a standalone freezer gives you additional freezer storage space, you'll find it much easier to keep tabs on your frozen goods and keep both freezers organized.

# What's the difference between a chest freezer and an upright freezer?

A chest freezer has a door that swings open from the top and takes up floor space in a horizontal fashion, whereas an upright freezer is similar to a traditional refrigerator, as it has a door that swings open from the front and uses minimal floor space.

# What are some benefits of chest freezers?

A Because they open from the top, chest freezers tend to be more energy efficient than upright models because cold air doesn't escape as quickly. And thanks to the low freezer profile, some models won't obscure windows or countertop areas.

# What are some benefits of upright freezers?

Abecause they're loaded with organizational features, such as shelves, baskets, and door bins.

# What are some special features that can be found on freezers?

A Some freezers offer locks, door and temperature alarms, defrost water drains, ice maker compatibility, adjustable temperature controls, power indicator lights, and a frost-free design.

# What does frost-free mean?

A thick layer of ice doesn't accumulate over time in a frost-free freezer. (Only select upright freezers offer this feature.) A unit that's not frost-free will need to be defrosted every now and then. Otherwise, the ice can reduce the efficiency of your freezer and make it difficult to retrieve frozen goods.

# What standards must a freezer meet in order to be Energy Star qualified?

Today's freezers must be at least 10% more energy efficient than the minimum federal government standard that has been outlined by the NAECA (National Appliance Energy Conservation Act). It's worth noting that freezer standards vary depending on a unit's size and configuration.

# My refrigerator has an ice maker. Why should I consider a standalone ice maker?

A If you need a lot of ice in a small period of time, a standalone ice maker is an ideal solution. These appliances can make up to 50 pounds of ice in 24 hours for special occasions, businesses, or everyday use.

# On standalone ice makers come in different configurations?

Yes, there are freestanding or built-in standalone ice makers. A freestanding model works well for making ice at multiple locations, as it can be transported easily. A built-in ice maker can be installed flush with lower cabinets under a countertop.









# NOTEWORTHY \_\_\_\_\_

# Accessories & Services

After you've selected an appliance, you need to make sure you have all of the necessary extras, such as cords or hoses for installation. It's also good to consider if you want a professional to deliver and install your unit. By adding the accessories below, you can ensure your appliance's performance remains top-notch.



#### VACUUM BELTS, BAGS & FILTERS

- Replace vacuum belts every year for optimum performance
- Trap airborne pollutants, such as dust particles and debris, with micro allergen or HEPA filter vacuum bags and filters



#### **GAS FLEX LINES**

- Ranges and laundry dryers. Gas lines aren't included with these appliances, so you'll need to pick one up
- · With an auto shutoff feature, you can protect your home from gas leaks
- · Professional installers require a new gas line



#### **HIGH-EFFICIENCY** LAUNDRY DETERGENT

- Wash clothes better with a detergent that's formulated to work with a highefficiency washer
- · HE detergent prevents damage to your washer, such as leaking, vibration, and poor spinning



#### **UPHOLSTERY & FLOOR CLEANING AGENTS**

- Make cleaning easy with products made for particular surfaces, such as multifloor, wood floors, carpet, and upholstery
- · Some agents can be used with a variety of products, but others are for use only with specific products



#### **LAUNDRY PEDESTALS**



- Raise your front-loading washer and dryer to an easy-to-access and more ergonomic height
- Store laundry supplies in pedestals that double as drawers



#### REFRIGERATOR BULBS & FILTERS

- Keep a spare bulb on hand to replace burntout interior lights
- Ensure your dispensed water and ice always taste fresh with extra water filters



#### **WATER LINES**

- **Refrigerators.** Some models include plastic water lines, which are susceptible to twisting or leaks. A better alternative is a line made of metal, such as copper or stainless steel.
- Washing machines. Don't settle for the rubber hose that comes with your machine, as it can burst. Instead, opt for a durable stainless steel hose that will last longer.
- Dishwashers. Reusing an old water line can lead to water damage. Instead, get a dishwasher kit that includes a water line and power cord for the best performance.



#### **ELECTRICAL CORDS**

Power cords aren't included with these appliances. Here's what you should know:

- Washers and dryers. All new models use 4-prong cords, but models made before 1984 require a 3-prong cord replacement.
- Dishwashers. Purchase a three-prong cord individually or in a kit that includes a water line.
- Ranges. Check your home's electrical outlet to get either a 3-prong or 4-prong cord.



#### **APPLIANCES SERVICES**

Whether you're buying a new unit or need to tune up your existing one, CE retailers offer professional services like the ones below to help get your appliance up and running in no time.

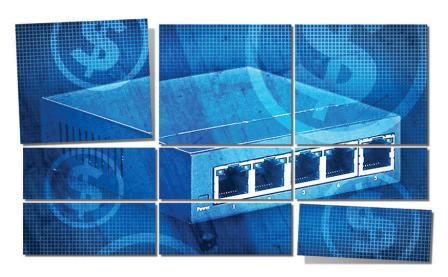
- Delivery & Installation
- · Appliance Recycling
- · Appliance Service Plans
- **Appliance Repairs**



#### HOW TO BUY

## Products For A Growing Business

#### **Prepare To Expand**



Hardworking business owners know that being prepared for expansion is part of managing a business well. When you're making decisions about internal storage, software, and your network, it's wise to choose products that leave room for growth.

**Servers.** Generally speaking, a physical server, such as a rack-mountable model with a hard drive, stores data and supports applications. As a business grows, you can add more servers to your data center (a temperature-controlled computer room) to accommodate increased storage needs, higher performing hardware, and upsurges in data sharing.

**Software volume licenses.** If your business requires more than a handful of copies of a program, you can take advantage of bulk volume licensing in order to get the most for your money. Buying a few extra licenses in this way won't break the bank and will give your business room to expand.

VPN firewall. The purpose of a VPN (virtual private network) firewall is to remotely protect computers that are tied into your business' network server from malicious attacks such as malware, spyware, and other infections. A VPN firewall router puts a barrier between connected computers and the VPN server that's connected to the Internet, so you and your employees can safely access servers. A standard VPN firewall will typically feature secure VPN tunneling (to maintain data confidentiality), intrusion protection, and remote management capabilities.

#### Gigabit Ethernet switches.

A Gigabit Ethernet switch connects multiple computers or devices on a LAN (local-area network) and forwards and filters "packets" of data among the devices. The advantage of an Ethernet switch compared to a traditional hub is that it transmits data more efficiently because it can determine the data's intended destination and prevent data collisions. This enables traffic on a network to travel more quickly, which helps prevent a drop in an expanding business' productivity.

by Joanna Clay

#### **ESSENTIAL THINGS TO KNOW**



## Home-Theater Products For Business Needs

#### I want to install an HDTV in my conference room. ✓ How large should the screen be?

Measure the viewing distance, in feet, from the location A where you want to place an HDTV to your seating area. Multiply the measured distance by three, and then by five. This will give you the minimum and maximum HDTV screen sizes, measured in inches diagonally, that work best for your space. For example, a 10-foot distance would be best accommodated with a set that's between 30 and 50 inches.

#### What sort of audio can I use to complement a **conference room HDTV?**

An HTiB (home theater in a box) is the simplest solution, as it gives you an entire audio setup in one package. Alternatively, you can purchase speakers, an A/V receiver, and a disc player separately.

#### For business presentations, is an HDTV or computer monitor better?

It depends on the application, but generally, it's probably best to go with an HDTV. Computer monitors tend to be better suited for close-range viewing, whereas an HDTV is better if several people in a room are watching.

#### Should I put an HDTV or projector and screen in my conference room?

If the primary purpose of your room is to conduct videoconferences and show training materials, an HDTV is the best choice; however, for slideshow presentations and the like, a projector and screen are more suitable. Projectors are also ideal for very large rooms, and they're more portable than HDTVs.

#### What types of projector screens are available?

Fixed projector screens do not retract from a ceiling, wall, or stand; some screens are pulled down manually; and other screens are electric, allowing users to retract or pull them down from a ceiling or wall without touching the screen itself. Still others have a tripod base, making them easily portable to various locations.

#### What are the benefits of mounting a projector?

Virtually any projector can be ceiling mounted with the right hardware. Not only will this free up space and prevent someone from blocking its projection, but it can also cut down on the time needed to set up the projector for meetings and presentations.

#### What is a throw ratio?

Throw ratio is the distance between the projector and screen compared to the width of the projected image. This ratio lets you know how wide the image will be when the projector is at a given distance from the screen.

#### What's the difference between a projector with a ixed-focus lens and a projector with a zoom lens?

With a fixed-focus lens projector, the size of the projected image can only be adjusted by positioning the projector unit closer or further from the screen. A projector with a zoom lens can remain stationary while the size of the projected image is manually adjusted.







## Motion Gaming

#### Put The "Action" In Interaction



The Nintendo Wii, Sony PlayStation Move, and Microsoft Kinect for Xbox 360 combine physical activity and motion control to create an enjoyable at-home gaming experience for gamers and nongamers alike. We'll show you how the technology works, what you need to get started, and why almost anyone can enjoy a system that offers motion gaming.

#### What You Need

There are a few things you need to start playing motion-based games, depending on which system you choose. If you already have a game console, you may only need to buy a camera and/or special controllers to add motion gaming capabilities, but for some systems, you'll need to buy an entirely separate console. Check with your console's manufacturer to see if it makes motion gaming add-ons. Many games are designed for more than one player, so it's wise to buy additional controllers for systems that use them.

#### **How It Works**

Motion gaming systems track your movements using wireless controllers, cameras, or a combination of the two. You can control your character's actions in the game and interact with different objects and even other players. For instance, in sports motion-based games, you might use a controller as a baseball bat or golf club to swing and hit a ball. Some systems let you use your whole body as a controller, so you move your arms, legs, and head to interact with games.

#### **Anyone Can Play**

One draw for motion gaming is the fact that it is accessible to nongamers. Playing a game can be as easy as picking up a controller to strike an enemy with a sword or standing in front of a camera to exercise or perform dance moves. Most motion-based games are designed for players of all ages. And with so many different types of games available, from sports and fitness to action and adventure, every member of your family can get off the couch and have fun.

BY JOSH COMPTON

#### This Month's-Blu-ray Disc Releases

Biutiful

**Rating:** R | **MSRP\*:** \$39.99| **SKU:** 19143922

Release Date:5/31



Gnomeo & Juliet

**Rating:** G | **MSRP\*:** \$39.99 | **SKU:** 19218565

Release Date: 5/24



No Strings Attached

**Rating:** R | **MSRP\*:** \$39.99 | **SKU:** 2466193

Release Date: 5/10



	Date MSRP* SKU		Rating	
May	I			
A Man Called Horse	5/31	\$24.99	19161891	R
All the Right Moves	5/3	\$24.99	19138436	R
American Graffiti	5/31	\$26.98	19127255	PG
An Innocent Man	5/10	\$9.98	19209755	R
Another Stakeout	5/10	\$9.98	19200496	PG-13
Being Human: Season 3	5/3	\$59.98	19134412	Not Rated
Betsy's Wedding	5/10	\$9.98	19209819	R
Big Business	5/10	\$9.98	19200469 19161928	PG 12
Big Jake	5/31	\$24.99	19161928	PG-13
Biutiful Black Death	5/31	\$39.99	2543831	R
	5/10	\$29.98		R
Blue Valentine	5/10	\$39.99	2303053	R
Cougars, Inc.	5/10	\$29.99	19108793	R Net Detect
Dahmer vs. Gacy	5/10	\$28.99	19114603	Not Rated
Drive Angry	5/31	\$30.49	2540097	R Net Detect
Fat Girl	5/3	\$39.95	19122569	Not Rated
Flicka 2	5/10	\$19.99	19138349	PG 12
From Prada to Nada	5/3	\$19.99	19207775	PG-13
Gnomeo & Juliet	5/24	\$39.99	19218565	G 12
Gross Anatomy	5/10	\$9.98	19209828	PG-13
Halloween H2O	5/3	\$19.99	4735415	R
Halloween: The Curse of			40466	
Michael Myers	5/10	\$19.99	19166508	R
I Saw the Devil	5/10	\$29.98	19114694	Not Rated
Journey to Mecca	5/10	\$29.99	19089758	Not Rated
Justin Bieber: Never Say Never	5/13	\$39.99	2525381	
Money for Nothing	5/10	\$9.98	19209791	R
Murdoch Mysteries: Season 3	5/3	\$69.99	19077059	Not Rated
My Father the Hero	5/10	\$9.98	19200487	PG
My Own Love Song	5/3	\$29.98	19090092	Not Rated
Nature: Salmon: Running the	F/2.1	624.00	10100756	Ni-4 D-4l
Gauntlet	5/31	\$24.99	19109756	Not Rated
No Strings Attached	5/10	\$39.99	2466193	R
Once Upon a Time in the	F/2	624.00	10161055	DC 13
West Province Plant	5/3	\$24.99	19161855	PG-13
Passion Play	5/31	\$29.97	19123407	R
Police Story 3: Supercop Rio Lobo	5/10	\$19.99	2543822	R
	5/31	\$24.99	19161873	G Net Detect
Smiles of a Summer Night	5/3	\$39.95	19122596	Not Rated
Something Wild	5/10 5/10	\$39.95	19122366 19209773	R PG
Straight Talk	5/3	\$9.98	19209773	PG
Taps The Crown City of Angels		\$24.99		
The Crow: City of Angels	5/3	\$19.99	2364414	R
The Dilemma	5/3	\$39.98 \$34.95	2420235	PG-13
The Green Hornet	5/3	\$34.95	2390758	PG-13
The Gun in Betty Lou's	F/10	\$0.00	10200027	DC 13
Handbag	5/10	\$9.98	19209837	PG-13
The Hit List	5/10	\$30.95	19119177	R
The Libertine The Marrying Man	5/10	\$19.97	19089776	R
The Marrying Man The Violent Kind	5/10	\$9.98 \$29.97	19200478	R
	5/10		19124682	R
The Yards	5/3	\$19.99	2364381	R
True Pland The Complete	5/24	\$29.99	19153856	R
True Blood: The Complete	E/21	¢70.00	2250007	T) / A 4 A
Third Season	5/31	\$79.98	2350087	TV MA
Twelve O'Clock High	5/3	\$29.99	19138463	Not Rated
V.I. Warshawski	5/10	\$9.98	19209764	R DC 12
Waiting for Forever	5/3	\$29.99	2544039	PG-13

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



## ESRB Game Ratings & Descriptions

#### Find Material That's Appropriate For Your Kids

#### ESRB (Entertainment Software Rating Board) Ratings

In order for parents to select gaming software appropriate for their children, ESRB (www.esrb.org) ratings are listed on the front and back of most game packages to provide concise and impartial details about a title's content.



**Early Childhood.**Titles with this ra-

ting have content that may be suitable for children

ages 3 and older. These software titles contain no material that parents would find inappropriate.



**Teen.** Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 13 and older.

Titles in this category may contain violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, simulated gambling, or infrequent use of strong language.



Everyone. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 6

and older. Games in this category may contain minimal cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and infrequent use of mild language.



Mature. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for persons ages 17

and older. Games in this category may contain intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content, or strong language.



Everyone 10+. Titles with this rating have content that may be suitable for children ages 10 and

older. Games in this category may contain more cartoon, fantasy, or mild violence and language as well as minimal suggestive themes.



**Adults Only.**Titles with this

rating have content that is only suitable for persons 18

years and older. Games in this category may include prolonged scenes of intense violence, graphic sexual content, or nudity.

For additional information, ESRB ratings on the back of game packages include content descriptions and depictions.



#### **GAMING TIPS FOR PARENTS**

Aside from checking a game's ESRB rating, there are other ways you can ensure the games your youngsters are playing are age-appropriate.

- Carefully look at everything on a title's packaging, including the game graphics.
- Find game reviews, screen shots, or demos to get a better idea of a game's content.
- If available, use the game's parental controls to restrict inappropriate content.
- Learn about games by talking to other parents and older children who are familiar with or have played certain titles.
- Participate in your children's gaming and discuss their games as much as possible.
- Be aware of nonrated ESRB material a game may contain. "Mods" are program downloads that can alter a game's content, and online games often have live player chats as well as other usergenerated content.

#### Which Game System Is Best For You?

Game consoles and portable devices are no longer limited to gameplay. They can also access the Internet, download media, and play your favorite DVDs or CDs. To help you find a game device that will suit you best, here's a comparison of the most popular selections you can find

	at your	at your local CE retailer.							
			Storage Space	Compatible memory cards	Optical drive	Video resolution output	Ports		
		What It Means	How much data the system can hold	Cards that will let you save and offload data, such as game saves or personal media	Aside from game discs, other playable media formats	Highest number of video pixels that is sent to a TV or portable console screen	Hookups for controllers as well as video and audio outputs		
Console Devices		Sony PlayStation 3 With PlayStation Move MSRP: \$399.99* SKU 1122275	320GB	PlayStation and PlayStation 2 cards with optional USB memory card adapter	CD, DVD, BD	1,920 x 1,080	1 AVV, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 1 optical digital audio, 2 USB		
		<b>Nintendo Wii</b> MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9916446	512MB	SD/Nintendo GameCube Memory Card	Can only play game titles	720 × 480	4 controller, 1 A/V Multi Out, 2 USB		
	0 10 0 mm	Microsoft Xbox 360 4GB Console With Kinect MSRP: \$299.99* SKU 1162439	4GB	USB flash drive	CD, DVD	1,920 x 1,080	1 optical audio out, 1 Ethernet, 1 HDMI, 5 USB, Kinect port		
Portable Devices	So and a second	Nintendo 3DS MSRP: \$249.99* SKU 1824267	N/A	SD	None	Upper: 800 x 240 (3D) Lower: 320 x 240	1 headphone		
	and DS.	<b>Nintendo DSi</b> MSRP: \$149.99* SKU 9249725	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone		
		Nintendo DSi XL MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9760166	256MB	SD	None	Dual 256 x 192	1 headphone, 1 microphone		
	THAT THOOLET	Sony PSPgo MSRP: \$199.99* SKU 9459659	16GB	Memory Stick Micro	None; download to internal and remov- able memory only	480 x 272	1 USB, 1 headphone		
	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Sony PlayStation Portable 3000 MSRP: \$169.99* SKU 9175082	64MB	Memory Stick Duo	UMD (Universal Media Disc)	480 x 272	1 video out/ headset, 1 USB, 1 DC out		

\*Prices listed in this issue are for general reference and may vary from retailer pricing.



#### **GAMING, MEDIA & MORE**

Online community	Wi-Fi access; Media streaming	Parental controls	Compatible game formats	Included accessories & services	Available accessories	Controllers	Perfect for
Web site membership for downloads, upgrades, and more	Access the Internet without a cable hookup; send and receive media wirelessly	Helps parents decide what content their kids can or cannot access	Game titles that can be played on the game system	Accessories included with the console	Extras that can help enhance your gameplay	Included controllers; wired/wireless controller com- patibility	Who can benefit from the special features the gaming system offers
Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes—Netflix and content from your home network	Options avail- able for games, BDs, DVDs, and Internet access	Sony Play- Station 3 titles and select PlayStation titles	DualShock 3 wireless con- troller, Move motion con- troller, Eye Camera, USB cable, PlayStation Network membership, AV cable	Move Navigation con- troller, Blu-ray remote, Bluetooth headset, memory card adapter, wireless keypad, cables	Includes 1 DualShock 3 wireless con- troller; wireless	Someone who wants the value of a full gaming system with a BD player and media streaming
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes, 802.11b/g; Yes—Netflix	Options available for games, online features and downloads, and more	Nintendo GameCube and Wii titles	Wii remote and nunchuck, sensor bar, Wii Sports game, console stand, AV cable, adapter	Wireless Wii remote, wheel, classic (wired) controllers, wire- less sensor bar	Includes 1 wire- less Wii remote and nunchuck; both (some titles require a wired remote)	Gamers of any age who want a unique wireless gaming experience that requires little gaming knowledge
Xbox LIVE	Yes, 802.11n; Yes—Netflix and content from your home network	Options available for games, Xbox LIVE, console play time, and a Family Settings pass code	Xbox 360 supports backward compatibility of the original Xbox, Xbox 360, and Xbox LIVE Arcade titles	Kinect Sensor, wireless con- troller, Kinect Adventures game, A/V cable, free one-month trial to Xbox LIVE Gold	HDMI cable, USB flash drive, Xbox LIVE headset, Play & Charge Kit	Includes 1 wire- less controller; wireless	Those who want an Xbox console with a Kinect Sensor to play games only with body movement, built-in wireless capabilities, and more
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Options available for games, specific wire- less connectivity, 3D functionality, and more	Nintendo 3DS titles and nearly all Nintendo DSi and Nintendo DS titles	Charging cradle, AC adapter, stylus, 2GB SD card, 6 AR cards	Cases, adapters, screen shields	N/A	Users who want a handheld game system that supports 3D games
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Options available for Nintendo DSi content	Nintendo DSi and Nintendo DS titles	AC adapter, 2 styli	Audio headset, battery power pack, screen protectors, carrying cases, styli	N/A	Users who want a hand- held gaming system that lets them take, person- alize, and share photos
Nintendo Wi-Fi Connection	Yes; Yes	Options available for DSi software, DSi Browser, DSi Shop, and more	N/A	Rechargeable bat- tery, AC adapter, stylus, and 4 preinstalled titles	Cases, adapters, headphones, full- sized stylus	N/A	Those who want a hand- held gaming system better- suited for social gaming with a large screen
Yes, PlayStation Network	Yes, 802.11b; Yes	Included	Available for download from PlayStation store	AC adapter, USB cable	Protective screen film, cradle, head- phones, memory cards, cases	N/A	Those who need a bigger screen for their gaming, Internet, and media entertainment
Yes, free PlayStation Network membership	Yes, 802.11b; No	Options avail- able for UMDs, Internet, and video downloads	PlayStation Portable titles	AC adapter, battery pack	Battery charger, travel case, memory cards, AV cable, AC adapter, car adapter	N/A	Those who want to enjoy gaming as well as movies, photos, and music when they're on the go

#### NOTEWORTHY \_\_\_\_\_

### Accessories & Services

The gaming experience goes beyond the game itself—you need the right console peripherals and the best just-in-case services. We've compiled a list of some of the must-have accessories that will only enhance your gameplay, so be sure to remember these items on the next trip to your local CE retailer.



#### **RACING WHEELS**

- A gaming steering wheel puts you in the driver's seat of a virtual race
- · A comfortable, accurate wheel will give you more control with turns, braking, and acceleration
- Be sure to purchase a racing wheel that's compatible with your specific game console



#### **USB DEVICES**

- · A USB media hub will let you connect other USB devices (including MP3 players and portable game devices) to your game console
- Use a USB rechargeable battery pack to charge the Li-Ion battery for guitar controllers



- USB drives, or memory cards back up your inprogress games
- When additional memory is connected to live (online) games, you can save gaming content and downloads
- The more memory you have, the more games and downloads you'll be able to store



#### **WIRELESS CONTROLLER**

- · Bluetooth technology lets you play while also having the freedom to move around
- · Some controllers use traditional AAA batteries to sustain your playing time
- Find the best design for your grip: ergonomic or traditional



#### **GAMING KEYBOARD**

- Adding a keyboard can help game efficiency type in text codes and chat with other players quickly
- · Look for a model with a touchpad so you can easily scroll around the game display
- Models that offer hotkeys will enable you to quickly perform tasks, such as gameplay actions



#### MUSIC CONTROLLER **ACCESSORIES**

- · Add a heavy-duty bass pedal to your gaming drum set to replace your standard pedal
- · A tripod microphone stand will make your song-based games more true to life
- Extra cymbals for your rock drum kit will give you more freedom to express musical ability

#### **HEADSETS**

- · Use a hands-free headset to enhance your gaming experience by planning strategies aloud with your team
- · A Bluetooth 2.0 headset is designed to communicate with your game console; Bluetooth headsets will be compatible with most game consoles
- Consider noise-canceling headsets with echo-minimizing microphones so you can hear and be heard clearly



#### **GAMING SERVICES**

Your local CE retailer provides some helpful services, both in-home and in-store, to enhance your game console. Specifically, the professionals can set up online connections, install system updates, and transfer data to a game storage device.

- Configure online accounts
- Console system updates
- · Stream media from a PC to a game console
- · Connect a console to a home-theater system



## Utilizing The Cloud

BEING ACCUSED OF HAVING YOUR HEAD IN the clouds used to be a bad thing. Now it's taking on a whole new meaning.

Although still in its early phases, cloud computing is on track to revolutionize the computing industry on a level right up there with the mouse and the Internet. Its impact will be felt all the way from everyday home users to Fortune 500 companies.

And you may be using it already.

#### What Is The Cloud?

Industry professionals often define cloud computing in different ways. In a nutshell, though, it refers to an approach to computing in which data files, multimedia content, and the programs that work with them no longer reside on your personal computer or other device. Instead, they're on a server that might be anywhere in the world, and you access

them through the Internet, typically through a Web browser.

If you've ever used a Web-based email account such as Gmail, then you've already used cloud computing. While Gmail does let you reconfigure it to download email to your PC, most people don't use it that way, and simply read, write, and send their mail through the program interface that appears in their browser. Although it shows up on-screen, the actual content never makes it to their hard drives.

That's cloud computing in action.

#### Why Do It This Way?

The core benefit behind cloud computing is being able to access whatever data you need, anytime, anywhere, through any connected device.

With the email example, you can manage your personal mail on your

home desktop computer, a laptop at the coffee shop, or on a smartphone at the airport, and have access to your current data through any of them. No synchronizing between devices is required.

Now imagine extending that kind of anytime, anywhere accessibility to, for example, office documents that you either work on solo or from multiple locations or that belong to a group project, with multiple collaborators. It's not just the office files that live in the cloud, but the programs that create them. Because everybody's working from the same tool set, this eliminates any risk of file incompatibility between different programs and platforms.

Another benefit of cloud computing is that it reduces the amount of physical space you need for data. Conceivably, your cloud storage space could grow as large as you

**FirstGlimpse** 

#### A Peek At The Digital Future

want, yet you'd never need to buy a bigger hard drive.

Furthermore, it minimizes the risk of data loss. Making backups is something everybody knows they should do, but most people still don't. In the cloud, data is backed up without your having to think about it.

#### Into The Cloud

So how can you start utilizing cloud computing? Practically any type of computing device is your ticket in: desktop and laptop computers, netbooks, smartphones, the booming class of tablet devices, set-top boxes providing Internet and video, and smart HDTVs. The list will only grow.

BY BRIAN HODGE

#### In addition to the Web-based email and office examples we've mentioned, here are some more ways you can put the cloud to work:

- Back up your most valuable data to cloud-based storage.
- Store specific personal or work files in the cloud so they remain accessible no matter if you're across town, on a business trip across the country, or on an extended vacation around the world.
- Synchronize your contacts across multiple

- phones and computers so that an update to one updates them all.
- Upload your family pictures to a photosharing Web site for viewing on a tablet, phone, or your HDTV.
- · Ditch cable TV in favor of a set-top box that lets you access the movies, shows, and videos you want via the Web.
- And this is only the beginning. Because cloud computing means most of the data processing and storage occurs on a Web server located elsewhere, before long we should see a lot of simple, low-cost gadgets designed specifically to take advantage of the cloud's possibilities.

#### Trend Micro Titanium Maximum Security 2011

he need to proactively keep your data secure is never going away. To the contrary—with cyber criminals continually refining their methods, we need security measures that keep up with them.

Trend Micro's Titanium Maximum Security 2011 (\$79.95 per year for three PC licenses; us.trendmicro.com) is a full-spectrum, subscription-based security suite that does just that. It combines antivirus protection and Internet security in a novel approach. Instead of residing solely on your computer, it does much of its heavy lifting in the cloud. It relies on Trend Micro's Smart Protection Network, which is continually analyzing Internet activity for emerging threats.

This approach not only goes lighter on your system resources, leaving more processing power and storage space available. It also allows for a rapid response to new threats that doesn't require you to initiate your own updates. As soon as Trend Micro's team of threat specialists finds new viruses, spyware, bots, and other malware in the wild, they go to work on the defense, which blocks them at the source. As well, any necessary updates are automatically sent to your personal installation.

Titanium Maximum Security has several features that further sweeten the deal. It includes configurable parental controls if, in addition to your data, you need to keep children safe on the Internet. It also lets you safeguard your smartphone's contact information and data. Finally, it includes 10GB of online storage space for off-site backup—always a good idea for your most valuable files.



**Trend Micro Titanium Maximum Security 2011** \$79.95 per year for three PC licenses us.trendmicro.com

FirstGlimpse





#### iRobot Roomba 560

No need to do all the work yourself. Let a robotic vacuum lend you a hand by automatically cleaning at scheduled times.

\$349.99



#### AudioQuest CleanScreen

This no-drip gel cleaner is safe to use on CRT, LCD, and plasma screens.

\$20.99



Steam-clean hard floors with a steam mop. The chemical-free cleaning works as a natural sanitizer.

\$79



#### Init NT-WGM1150

Clear the clutter in your home-theater room by selecting furniture that combines a stand and mount for your HDTV. Cleanly display your HDTV without giving up storage space for your other home-theater devices and media.

\$279.99



#### Moshi TeraGlove Microfiber Screen Cleaner

Remove dust, fingerprints, and other grime from your computer display with a microfiber cloth. You'll get a clean monitor without using harsh solvents.

\$16

You Bust The Dust



#### **Dust-Off Gaming Gear Duster**

A compressed air duster will help you blast those crumbs out of the crevices in your keyboard. Blow the fuzzies off your desktop PC's fans to increase airflow and keep your computer cool.

\$13.49



# TOUSN, yet sophisticated.

Corning® Gorilla® Glass is changing the face of television. Remarkably thin and lightweight, Corning Gorilla Glass enables streamlined designs that dissolve the boundary between you and the action. Its amazing optical clarity brings TV images to life. And it features exceptional durability to handle those moments when viewing unintentionally becomes a contact sport.



